Records of Fort St. George

DIARY AND CONSULTATION BOOK

(PUBLIC DEPARTMENT)

1756

(VOLUME No. 86)

WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

BY

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Curator, Madras Record Office

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PREFATORY NOTE

This volume contains extracts from the Proceedings of the President and Council of Fort St. George from 13th July to 22nd September 1756, relating to the troubles in Bengal and is the eighty-sixth volume of the Series "Diary and Consultation Books," Public Department.

As in the previous volumes of the Series, difficult or obsolete terms have been explained in the foot-notes. But, for introduction and shipping table, the reader is referred to the previous volume (No. 85).

The manuscript volume has been mended and is in a fair state of preservation.

CHITTOOR,
17*th January* 1946.

B. S. BALIGA,
Curator, Madras Record Office.

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RECORDS OF FORT ST. GEORGE

DIARY AND CONSULTATION BOOK

OF

1756

(VOLUME No. 86.)

[*From July* 13 *to September* 22.]

Extracts from the Consultations Relating to the Troubles in Bengal.

—— *FORT ST. GEORGE, JULY 1756* ——

Received by Pattamars two General Letters from Bengal dated the 4th. and 7th. June. 13TH.

AT A CONSULTATION

Present WEDNESDAY THE 14TH.

GEORGE PIGOT ESQR. GOVERNOR PRESIDENT.

STRINGER LAWRENCE. HENRY POWNEY.
ROBERT ORME. ALEXANDER WYNCH.
WILLIAM PERCEVAL. JOHN SMITH.
CHARLES BOURCHIER.

General Letters from the Honble Roger Drake Esqr. President & Governour &ca. Council at Bengal are read as follows; Vizt.

Memo. The letters here entered at length are abstracted only in the Body of the Consultns.

Nos. 96 & 97.

TO THE HONBLE GEORGE PIGOT ESQR.
PRESIDENT & GOVERNOUR &CA. COUNCIL
AT FORT ST. GEORGE.

HONBLE SIR & SIRS

We wrote you under Date the 25th. Ultimo Duplicate of which Letter We now enclose.

Since the date of that Address We have been involved in a Dispute with the Country Government, the Event of which remains undetermined as yet, and as We esteem our present Situation extremely Critical from the capricious Disposition of our Nabob, We shall trouble your Honour &ca. with the Occasion of the Dispute between us with our Sentiments upon his Conduct, and what We conceive proper for the Security of the Honble Company's Estates Settlements Rights and Priviledges in these Provinces.

In Consequence of the Intelligence your Honour &ca. gave Us in your Letter of the 13th. April We ordered our Line of Guns towards the River to be repaired and strengthened that We might be as well prepared in case of a Rupture with France as our present Works could admitt of, This was accordingly begun upon immediately, and is now very near Compleated, Some time after the President received a Perwanna * from the Nabob giving him to understand that he had heard from good Authority that We were enclosing the Town of

* A grant or letter under royal seal. Hobson-Jobson.

—— FORT ST. GEORGE, JULY 1756 ——

Calcutta with a Strong Wall and a Ditch which he by no means approved of, and therefore insisted that We immediately destroyed the Works We had begun and fill up the Ditch We were digging. In Reply to this Perwannah the President acquainted him that he had been very much misinformed in relation to the Works We were carrying on, having dug no Ditch since the Invasion of the Morattoes, and that we were only repairing our Wharf towards the River, which was much damaged and in a bad Condition. We were in hopes this Answer would have proved satisfactory, but, contrary to our Expectation, Mr. Watts and his Council at Cossimbuzar on the 25th. of last month, informed us the Nabob had taken great Offence at the Reply, and had order'd a Party of Horsemen to be stationed upon their Factory. Upon the Receipt of this Advice, the President has a second time addressed the Nabob (as well as several of the Durbar Officers) upon this Proceeding of his, what effect it will have, We do not as yet know, nor are We able to judge but from the Purport of three Letters (Copies of which We transmit inclosed for your Observation) received from the Gentlemen at Cossimbuzar within these two days. We are very apprehensive Matters will be carried to Extremities there, unless We comply with his peremptory Orders for destroying our Works, But as such a Condescension could subject our Flag to the greatest Contempt, and render it impossible for us to transact the Business of our Employers with any Safety, We are determined not to submit to such Arbitrary Terms, which if once complied with, We must ever after expect continual Trouble upon ev[ery] frivolous Pretence. In order to maintain this Resolution, and [repel] Force by Force should We be attacked, (pursuant to our Honble Master's Commands) We are necessitated to demand of your Honour &ca. by [the] first Conveyances that offer, the Recruits detained at your Presidency and intended for this Settlement or at least a Reinforcement of 500 European Soldiers well trained and disciplined with a proportional Quantity of Arms and Stores.

We hope your Honour &ca. will not on any Account neglect to supply us with the Troops We have demanded, The known Temerity of our present Nabob's character making it absolutely necessary to be always on our Guard and in a Capacity to resent any Insult, or Injury that may be offer'd Us, as well to preserve the Property of our Employers from Plunder; These Considerations induce us to repeat our Demand on behalf of the Honble Company for a strong body of Military by the first Conveyances that offer for this Place; And as the Consequence of either omitting or even delaying to send us Such a Reinforcement as We have demanded may be very fatal to our Honble Masters affairs in these Provinces, We shall not deem ourselves for what may happen Should your Honor &ca. refuse, neglect, or defer complying with our above Request.

For our further Security We think it adviseable that your Honour &ca. would make Admiral Watson acquainted with the Purport of this Letter.

The Prince George &ca. &ca.

We are
HONBLE SIR & SIRS
Your most Obedient humble Servants,

FORT WILLIAM,
1ST. JUNE 1756.

ROGER DRAKE, *Junr*.
CHAS. MANNINGHAM.
WILLM. FFRANKLAND.
J. Z. HOLWELL.
WILLM. MACKET.
EDWARD EYRE.
WILLM. BAILLIE.

— *FORT ST. GEORGE, JULY 1756* —

Postscript. DATED ½ PAST 7 P.M. 4TH. JUNE 1756.

This Instant We have received another Letter from the Gentlemen at Cassimbuzar advising Us that another Party was arrived upon the Factory with a Train of Artillery. That there are ten Peons upon our Vackeel and all Intercourse with the Country People entirely cut off, from which Your Honor &ca. may judge What We are to expect, & how prejudicial the least Delay may prove to our Honble Masters Affairs at this Presidency.

TO THE HONBLE ROGER DRAKE ESQR.
PRESIDENT & GOVERNOUR &CA. COUNCIL
OF FORT WILLIAM.

HONBLE SIR & SIRS

Yesterday Golaum Hossein Cawn sent for our Vackeel and shewed him a Letter which his Son Golaum Alli Cawn the Nabob's Arisbeggy wrote him from his Camp, the Purport of which was as follows, That the Nabob receiving a Letter from the Governour, and at the same time one from the French Director, was extremely angry and immediately sent Orders to Roy Doolob to Stop our Business at Cossimbuzar and to Mohunbob to write to the Nabob at Dacca to stop our Business there and has likewise ordered Cossim Alli Cawn with a Body of Forces to march to Tanna's Fort and has advanced them two Month's Pay. Since writing the above We have received a Message from Hurrichowdry Huckembeg's Duan acquainting Us that 400 horse are order'd upon the Factory. As We have a very weak Garrison at present, We request your Honor &ca. will send us a Party with a supply of Ammunition.

We are with Respect
HONBLE SIR & SIRS
Your most Obedt. & h'ble Servants,

COSSIMBUZAR,
25TH. MAY 1756.

WILLIAM WATTS.
M. COLLET.
S. BATSON.

TO THE HONBLE ROGER DRAKE ESQR.
PRESIDENT & GOVERNOUR &CA. COUNCIL
AT FORT WILLIAM.

HONBLE SIR & SIRS

We wrote your Honour &ca. the 25th. Instant That Evening Aumee Beg & Ausmet Cawn Jemidars came upon the Factory with their Forces and have ever since been very troublesome in preventing Provisions and other Necessaries being brought into the Factory. We are informed Orders are gone to Dacca and all the Aurungs to stop the Honble Company's Business.

We have certain Advices that Huckembeg and his Duan Harrischoudree have been the Occasion of this Stoppage by their false Representations and Insinuations relating to our digging a Ditch and raising Fortifications in Calcutta; We leave to your Honour &ca's. Judgement whether it would not be adviseable to represent this to the Nabob, and that Huckembeg had under various Pretences for many years past, extorted large Sums from Us and impeded our Business by erecting of Chowkey's in different places of the River and exacting large sums from all Boats that pass, and has also occasioned a great Loss to the Company by his Duans Kissendeb & Hurrischowdry, taking up and fleecing our Merchants by which many of them are render'd

incapable of paying their Ballances, by which Oppression Means on Us & other Merchants, Kissendeb on his Death was possessed of near Eight Lacks of Rupees which Huckembeg We are informed seized to his own use.

We hear the Nabob is near Rajamaul and it is very uncertain when he will return & what his Schemes are.

COSSIMBUZAR,
31ST. MAY 1756.

WILLM. WATTS.
M. COLLET.
S. BATSON.

TO THE HONBLE ROGER DRAKE ESQR.
PRESIDENT & GOVR. &CA. COUNCIL
AT FORT WILLIAM.

HONBLE SIR & SIRS

Since our last Golaum Shaw a Considerable Jemidar with his Forces are come on the Factory and put a stop to all Provisions coming in.

We are informed by our Vackeel who had it from Golaum Shaw that unless Your Honour &ca. will fill up the Ditch and pull down the new Works which he hears is begun upon, he is determining to attack Us, There are if your Honour &ca. are determined not to comply with his Demand We request you will send us a Supply of Men as our Garrison is very weak However We think it adviseable for your Honour &ca. to write a Letter to the Nabob immediately.

COSSIMBUZAR,
31ST. MAY 1756.

WILLIAM WATTS.
M. COLLET.
S. BATSON.

TO THE HONBLE ROGER DRAKE ESQR.
PRESIDENT & GOVERNOUR &CA. COUNCIL.
AT FORT WILLIAM.

HONBLE SIR & SIRS

Another large Body of Forces with a Train of Artillery is now marching to the Factory. Our Vackeel has ten Peons upon him and is ordered not to come to the Factory and all Entercourse with the Country People put a Stop to, We have great Reason to expect We shall be soon attacked, therefore request your Honour &ca. will immediately send us a Party of at least a hundred Men as privately as possible by way of Kisnagah River and march overland from thence. We are with Respect

COSSIMBUZAR,
2D. JUNE 1756.

HONBLE SIR & SIRS
Your most Obedt. & humble Servants
WILLIAM WATTS.
M. COLLET.
S. BATSON.

—— FORT ST. GEORGE, JULY 1756 ——

To the Honble Roger Drake Esqr.
Presd^t. & Govr. &c^a. Council
in Fort William.

Honble Sir & Sirs

Since our last yesterday another considerable Body of Forces are come upon the Factory under the Command of four Jemidars, and more are expected this Evening. There is also a Party and Tents on the other side the River opposite to the Factory where We hear they intend to place their Cannon. The Nabob is expected in the City the Day after to Morrow, We have information by some People that the Nabob intends attacking Us and from others that they only threaten Us, in order that your Honour &c^a. may the sooner Comply with their Demand in filling up the Ditch & putting down what Works you have begun upon, in which he seems peremptory. We therefore desire your Honour &c^a. will either send us up a Body of Men that We may be able to defend ourselves or write to the Nabob that you will immediately comply with his Demand.

Our Doctor having been sent to Kissore Cawn and Cossumally Cawn two of the principal Jummedars who came upon the Factory this Morning they informed him that the Nabob was angry with Us on no other Account than upon our Honour &c^a's. building a Draw Bridge at Perrins and the Octigon at M^r. Kelsall's Gardens which was blown down two Years ago in the Storm and now made larger which they have taken for a new Fortification, and they say that in case You will break down the Draw Bridge and the Octigon, the Forces will be immediately withdrawn, if not, We must stand to the Consequence.

Since writing the above We have received the inclosed Letter from our Vackeel who is at the City.

By the Best Intelligence We can get, We have about two or three thousand Forces stationed about the Factory.

If your Honour &c^a. will write an arasdass to the Nabob that you will immediately obey his Orders, We are in hopes he will put an End to this Troublesome Affair.

Cossimbuzar,
1st. June 1756.

We are
Honble Sir & Sirs
Your most Obedient S[ervants]
William Watts.
M. Collet.
S. Batson.

To the Honble George Pigot Esqr.
President & Governour &c^a. Council
of Fort S^t. George.

Honble Sir & Sirs

Since writing you under date the 4th. Instant, We have received further Intelligence that the Nabob has order'd a Considerable Body of Forces and a large Train of Artillery to march down the River and that they are Six or Eight * Coss on this side of Cossimbuzar. All Communication between us and that Factory is entirely cut off, & We are obliged to depend on Reports for what may relate to them. From these Appearances and the close Investiture

* A measure of distance—Love's Vestiges, Index Volume, page 42.

of Cossimbuzar upon so frivolous a Pretence as that of Mr. Kelsal's Octagon and the Draw bridge at Perrins, We have great Reason to imagine his Designs extend much further than is at present known or declared. You will therefore perceive what Consequence the least Delay in reinforcing this Garrison may be of to the Honble Company and We doubt not will send us a Detachment the Minute you receive these Advices.

We are
Honble Sir & Sirs
Your most Obedient hble Servants

Fort William,
the 7th. June 1756.

Roger Drake, *Junr*.
Paul Richard Pearkes.
Jno. Zephh. Holwell.
Edward Eyre.
Willm. Baillie.

P.S.—Since writing the foregoing We have received the unfortunate News of Cossimbuzar Factory being delivered over into the hands of the Nabob as you will observe by the enclosed copies of Letters received from thence.

Roger Drake, *Junr*.
Paul Richd. Pearkes.
Jno. Zeph: Holwell.

To the Honble Roger Drake Esqr.

President & Governor &ca. Council.

Honble Sir & Sirs

Since writing to your Honour &ca. Our Factory has been invested by the Nabob's whole force and a large Train of Artillery with repeated Orders to attack us unless the Chief went in Person to the Nabob which he complied with as the only Method we thought of to prevent the Company being involved in War and loosing all the Company's Effects at the Subordinates as our Garrison was very weak both in Men & Ammunition, and the Gun Carriages mostly rotten and a Scarcity of Provisions, since which, Messrs. Collet and Batson were likewise sent for in order as they said to accommodate Matters, Upon which they thought it was most adviseable to go, a Perwanna coming at the same time to take off all the Forces from the Factory except Omubeg and his People.

This Morning the Chief and Second & Mr. Batson were accompanying Roydullub on his March is said to Calcutta when they stopt us and told us there was an Order come from the Nabob for the Second to return to the Fort and deliver up all the Cannon & Ammunition which we were obliged to comply with [. & .] are now delivering. The Nabob is said to march to [morrow to] Calcutta with all his Forces which is computed to be about [50000] Men.

The Chief & Mr. Batson are still with Roydoolot the Nabob's Vanguard

I am
Honble Sirs
M. Collet.

Cossimbuzar,
4th. June 1756.

—— *FORT ST. GEORGE, JULY 1756* ——

To the Honble Roger Drake Esq^{R}.

President & Gov^{R}. of Fort William.

Honble Sir

As We have been in hourly Expectation for these two days past of an attack from the Nabob's Army now reckoned to consist of upwards of 50,000 Men besides a Train of Artillery M^{r}. Watts and the Council have been trying all Methods to accommodate Matters rather than go to Extremities they after writing several arasdasses to the Nabob and also applying to such Persons whom they thought might represent our Case in a proper Manner, all which Efforts have not hitherto had any Success. However the 2^{d}. Instant Meer Hossein Alli Huckembeg's Son came into the Factory and informed the Gentlemen that the Nabob wanted to talk to the Chief, upon which it was thought adviseable for him to go immediately with our Doctor accompanied with Meer Hossein Alli who promised him to introduce him to the Nabob; I do not as yet hear this has had the expected. They obliged M^{r}. Watts to sign a Machutcha which to the best of my Remembrance signifies as follows. 1st. No Protection is to be given in Calcutta to any of the Nabob's Subjects. 2^{d}. The Draw Bridge at Perrins and the new Fortifications are to be demolished, and 3^{d}. No Dusticks to be given to any of the Black Merchants, and upon M^{r}. Watts wanting to come to Cossimbuzar again they prevented him saying they understood his signing any Paper would be of no Validity except all the Gentlemen in Council signed it, and that he should remain till the rest came, Upon which Messrs. Collet & Batson went in Expectation to sign it, but when they arrived a Perwannah came from the Nabob, as the Gentlemen write me with orders for the Second to return and deliver up all our Guns & Ammunition and for Omerbeg to remain at the Factory only. Since writing the above M^{r}. Collet arrived here who agreeable to the Nabob's order have delivered up the Cannon Powder &c^{a}. The Nabob is marching to Calcutta with 50,000 Men takes Messrs. Batson & Watts along with him. What the Nabob's Intentions are We at present cannot learn but imagine by most that he is going to Calcutta.

I am

Honble Sir

Your most Obedient humble Servant

Francis Sykes.

Cossimbuzar,

4th. June 1756.

This I write by the desire of M^{r}. Watts who is in extreme low Spirits.

The Measures proper to be taken with respect to the Situation of affairs at Bengal being considered, the Board at first had thoughts of sending the Suffolk with the Delawar down thither, but upon discoursing with the Commanders, and finding that the Delawar alone can carry as many Men as can be spared, it is Agreed that the Delawar only be dispatched as expeditiously as possible and for that Purpose that the Bales & Salt Petre laden on her for Europe be landed with all Dispatch, and that two compleat Company's of Military be sent on her. The Board then proceeded to the Nomination of Officers to command the said Detachment when Colonel Lawrence very readily offer'd to proceed with the Command: The Board thinking his Service necessary here, and judging also from [such] an Indisposition which constantly attends him that the Air of Bengal especially at this Season of the Year might prove fatal to him, it is therefore on these Considerations thought more adviseable to desire Major Kilpatrick to take upon him the Command of the Detachment. Major Kilpatrick being thereupon desired to attend the Board and being

informed of the Circumstances of Affairs at Bengal and the Resolution of sending a Reinforcement thither, acquaints, the Board that tho' he had resigned the Service and resolved on going home yet being ready and desirous at all times to shew his Inclination to serve the Company as well as gratitude for the favours received, if the Board think proper he will proceed with the said Command. It is thereupon agreed that Major Kilpatrick command the said Detachment and that the other Officers be Lieut. Dugald Campbell, Lieut. Samuel Samson, Ensign James Ogilvie, Ensign Stephen Smith, Lieutt. John Francis Paschoud of the Train, And that Captain William Lin now at Fort St. David, and Captain Lieutenant Benjamin Godwin and Lieutenant Erdman of the Train now at Camp be order'd to come in and to proceed to Bengal by next Conveyance.

AGREED that four Iron three Pounders with Carriages & Ammunition compleat be also sent with the said Detachment.

The Norwood being loaded with Redwood for Bengal on the Company's Account and in readiness to sail, AGREED that a Lack of Rupees be put on board her, and that She be dispatched to Bengal immediately with advices to the President and Council of the foregoing Resolution.

GEORGE PIGOT &CA.

15TH.

DISPATCHED Ship Norwood for Bengal with the following General Letters.

TO THE HONBLE ROGER DRAKE ESQR.

PRESIDENT & GOVERNOR &CA. COUNCIL

OF FORT WILLIAM.

HONBLE SIR & SIRS

Last Night We received your three Letters of the 25th. of May 4th. & 7th. of June and have a very deep Concern as well at the great Loss the Company have already sustained by the Surrender of Cossimbuzar to the Nabob as at the Danger you are threatned with at Calcutta. Our duty to the Company as well as an earnest desire to give you all the Assistance in our Power has determined us to dispatch the Delawar to you with two compleat Company's of Europeans which are all the Succours We can at this time spare consistently with the Safety of this Coast. These will be commanded by Major Kilpatrick with other proper Officers, besides two good Train officers with some Field Pieces, We hope this Reinforcement will be with you a few days after if not as soon as these Advices as We expect Troops will be embarked in three or four days at farthest. We advised you in a former Letter of our Intention to send You a Quality of Redwood and a good supply of Rupees by the Norwood—We have accordingly laden and consigned to You the Particulars mentioned in the accompanying Invoice which We hope will arrive in time to do you good Service.

We are

HONBLE SIR & SIRS

Your most humble Servants

FORT ST.. GEORGE,
14TH. JULY 1756.

GEORGE PIGOT.
STRINGER LAWRENCE.
HENRY POWNEY.
ROBERT ORME.
ALEXANDER WYNCH.
WILLIAM PERCEVAL.
JOHN SMITH.
CHAS. BOURCHIER.

—— *FORT ST. GEORGE, JULY 1756* ——

TO CAPTAIN JAMES SMITH
OF THE NORWOOD.

SIR ·

Having laden the Treasure & Redwood designed for Bengal on your Ship, You are directed to repair on board and make the best of your Way for the River of Bengal where you will deliver the accompanying Packet to the President & Council to whom you are consigned.

Should you at the Entrance into the River, or in Ballasore Road be chased by any Ship that you judge an Enemy before you have your Pilot on board this shall be a sufficient Authority and indemnify you for running over the Braces yourself as far as relates to the Concern the Hon̄ble Company have on board your Ship. You are to be particularly on your Guard, but in case of falling into the hand of an Enemy You are to destroy the Packets herewith delivered to you, but not till the last Extremity Dated in

FORT S^T. GEORGE,
THE 14TH. JULY 1756.

GEORGE PIGOT.
STRINGER LAWRENCE.
HENRY POWNEY.
ROBERT ORME.
ALEX^R. WYNCH.
WILL^M. PERCEVAL.
JOHN SMITH.
CHA^S. BOURCHIER.

AT A CONSULTATION

MONDAY THE 19TH.

Present

GEORGE PIGOT ESQ^R. GOVERNOUR PRESIDENT.

STRINGER LAWRENCE. HENRY POWNEY.
ROBERT ORME. ALEX^R. WYNCH.
WILLIAM PERCEVAL. JOHN SMITH.
CHARLES BOURCHIER.

The following Dispatches are now [read] and approved.

General Letter to Bengal to accompany the Detachment to be sent on the Delawar.

General Letter to M^r. Thomas Boddam Chief of Ballasore to be delivered in case the Delawar should put in there.

Instructions to Major James Kilpatrick.

— FORT ST. GEORGE, JULY 1756 —

Dispatch & Instructions to Captain Thos. Winter of the Delawar.

20TH. Sailed The Honble Company's Ship Delawar Captain Thos. Winter with the Detachment commanded by Major Kilpatrick & the Genl. Letters for Bengal which were read & approved at Yesterday's Consultation Vizt.

To the Hon'ble Roger Drake Esqr.
President & Govr. &ca. Council
at Fort William.

Honble Sir & Sirs

The 14th. Instant We dispatched the Norwood to You with Advice of our Intention to send down the Delawar with two compleat Companys of Military to your Assistance. The getting the Ship in readiness and embarking the Men has taken up a day or two more than We expected, but still We have warm Hopes this Reinforcement may arrive in time to answer the Ends for which it is intended. We are so sensible of the great Importance of your Settlement to the Company that We ardently wish it were in our Power to shew how intent We are on supporting you effectually, by immediately sending the whole Number of Troops you demand, but when We consider the State of our Garrisons, the Forces our Enemies have already on this Coast, and the Advice We have received of a strong Armament from Europe and the Islands intended for these parts, We think our own Situation so critical and dangerous that to part with a larger Force at this Juncture would be an imprudent Step, nor could We answer the Consequences to our Employers should We weaken ourselves so much as to leave their Possessions on this Coast exposed which in the End might prove equally fatal to their other Settlements. Several unlucky Circumstances have concurr'd to reduce our Forces to a much less Number than our Honble Masters can be apprized of Vizt.

By the Disappointment of the Dodington	200
Detained at the West Coast	100
Detained at Bombay	300
Put on board the Squadron in lieu of so many Sailors deficient	280
The Detachment now sent to your Presidency by the Delawar	200
	1080

When your Honour &ca. have considered how considerably such a Deduction must affect us We persuade Ourselves You will be satisfied We have done as much as We ought. These are the Grounds of our present Measures, should your Affairs require further Assistance and such a change happen in our's as may put it in our Power to afford you any more consistently with the safety of the Company's Settlements here, We beg your Honour &ca. will be assured We will make the utmost Efforts to Support you.

We could have wished your Honour &ca. had sent us a Return of your present Force, Artillery, Arms, Ammunition &ca. which would have given Us a better Idea of the State of Defence you are in, and have been a Guide to Us in the Proportion of Stores necessary to be sent you.

— FORT ST. GEORGE, JULY 1756 —

A Return of the Officers and Men now embarked on the Delawar will be delivered you by Major Kilpatrick, and as much depends on able and experienced officers We have chosen such as may be relyed on.

We have laden on board the Delawar two Chests of Rupees and consigned them to you but as We cannot foresee what Necessity there may be to employ them in case of an Accident to your Settlement, We have given Major Kilpatrick a Power in such Case to make use of them as Occasion may require.

The Lead, Artillery, Arms &ca. now sent you are particularized in the accompanying Invoice to which We refer.

Three Chests of Coral manifested by the Delawar from Europe for your Settlement having been landed here We think it adviseable to keep them here till We hear further from you.

We are

FORT ST. GEORGE,
20TH. JULY 1756

HONBLE SIR & SIRS
Your most humble Servants
GEORGE PIGOT.
STRINGER LAWRENCE.
HENRY POWNEY.
ROBERT ORME.
ALEXANDER WYNCH.
WILLIAM PERCEVAL.
JOHN SMITH.
CHARLES BOURCHIER.

TO MR. THOMAS BODDAM
CHIEF AT BALLASORE.

SIR

On the arrival of the Delawar Captain Winter in the Road of Ballasore You will please to communicate to him and to Major Kilpatrick who commands the Troops sent by us to reinforce Calcutta all the Intelligence you are Master of. If any thing sinister should have happened to that place it may be necessary to prevent the Delawar from proceeding farther untill the sentiments of the Members of the Presidency shall be known. If Major Kilpatrick should think it necessary to land and in Want of Orders should think any other Steps ought to be taken with the Troops for the Service of the Company's Estate & Affairs We request you will give him all the Assistance in your Power.

We are
SIR

FORT ST. GEORGE,
THE 20TH. JULY 1756.

Your most Obedient Servants
GEORGE PIGOT
&CA. COUNCIL AS ABOVE.

— *FORT ST. GEORGE, JULY 1756* —

To Major James Kilpatrick.

Sir

Having been advised by the President & Council of Fort William that their Nabob had made himself Master of the Company's Factory at Cassimbuzar and was moving towards Calcutta; We have thought proper to appoint you to the Command of the Detachment now embarked on the Delawar for the Assistance of that Presidency. On your Arrival in Bengal You are to follow such Orders as you may receive from the President and Council there. We have laden on the Delawar two Chests containing 16,000 Rupees, We hope you will have no Occasion to make use of them, but should you on your Arrival in Ballasore Road, hear of any Accident having befallen the Settlement at Calcutta You may find it necessary to land there when you may perhaps be in Want of this Money and the Chief of that Settlement will doubtless be able to advise you how to act till you hear from the President or some of the Council of Fort William, but in case they should be in such Circumstances as not to be able to give you any Directions in that or any other unforeseen Event, We rely on your Prudence and Discretion to take such Measures as may best suit the Occasion. In such case and in Want of Orders from the President & Council of Fort William Captain Winter is directed to follow your Orders.

We are
Sir
Your affectionate Friends

Fort St. George,
20th. July 1756.

George Pigot.
Stringer Lawrence.
Henry Powney.
Robert Orme.
Alexr. Wynch.
Willm. Perceval.
John Smith.
Charles Bourchier.

To Captain Thomas Winter
of the Ship Delawar.

Sir

You are hereby ordered to repair on board and make the best of your Way to the River of Bengal. On your Arrival in Ballasore Road should you meet with any Pilot Boat or other English Vessel inform yourself of them whether Calcutta is still in the Company's Possession, and if it is You will immediately proceed up the River, but if you should not meet with any English Vessels or not be able to get any such Information it will be necessary for you to acquaint the Chief there of the Detachment you have on board and of the Intent of sending you thither. You will learn from him the Situation of Affairs at Calcutta and proceed thither or remain at Ballasore according to the Intelligence he gives you untill you receive Orders from the President &

—— FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1756 ——

Council of Fort William or from Major James Kilpatrick who commands the Detachment now embarked on your Ship DATED IN FORT ST. GEORGE THE 20TH. JULY 1756.

GEORGE PIGOT.
STRINGER LAWRENCE.
HENRY POWNEY.
ROBERT ORME.
ALEXANDER WYNCH.
WILLIAM PERCEVAL.
JOHN SMITH.
CHARLES BOURCHIER.

Received by Pattamars General Letter from Bengal dated the 8th. June. 3

AT A CONSULTATION

TUESDAY THE 3D.

Present

GEORGE PIGOT ESQR. GOVERNOUR PRESIDENT.

STRINGER LAWRENCE. HENRY POWNEY.
ROBERT ORME. ALEXANDER WYNCH.
WILLIAM PERCEVAL. JOHN SMITH.
CHARLES BOURCHIER.

General Letter No. 104 from the Honble Roger Drake Esqr. President & Governour &ca. Council of Fort William is read as follows.

TO THE HONBLE GEORGE PIGOT ESQR.
PRESIDENT & GOVERNOUR &CA. COUNCIL
OF FORT ST. GEORGE.

HONBLE SIR & SIRS

Enclosed are Triplicates of what We have wrote you within these few days and copies of the Letters We have received from the Gentlemen at Cossimbuzar with an Account of the delivering up that Place to the Nabob the 4th. Instant.

From those Advices Your Honour &ca. will observe he is determined to march against this Settlement, and We have received authentic Advices that his Artillery and a Considerable Body of his Forces are already in their Way down. We are preparing every thing in our Power to make as vigorous a Defence as possible, but as our Garrison is extremely weak We shall endeavour to amuse him and avoid coming to Hostilities as long as We can; in hopes of your sending Us a sufficient Reinforcement when you know our Situation not only to repel those Troops he may bring against this Place, but to recover the Hon'ble Company's Factory at Cossimbuzar.

As our Safety and Honour must therefore depend chiefly on the Relief you are to send Us, We are again to request in the most earnest Manner as you tender the Interest of our Employers so deeply concerned in this Settlement as You regard the Lives and Properties of the Inhabitants, and as you value the Honour of our Nation, all of which are now at Stake; that you do not on any Motive whatever neglect to supply us with the Number of Men We have demanded, which is the only Means left us to recover Cossimbuzar, To defend ourselves and to transact the Company's Affairs on any Footing of Security. Should you after all We have said and urged upon this head, either refuse or delay the Reinforcement We have demanded, We hope your Honour &ca. will

excuse Us if We exculpate ourselves by protesting against You in behalf of our Hon̄ble Employers for all the Damages and ill Consequences of such Default.

We are likewise extremely deficient in Musquets, Shot, Bayonets, Small Field Pieces, Mortars and most kinds of Military Stores, a proportionable Quantity of which We shall likewise expect from your Honour &ca.

We are

Fort William, Hon̄ble Sir & Sirs

8th. June 1756. Your most Obedient humble Servants

P.S.—As it will be impossible to make Gun Powder should our Town be closely invested and as it is probable the Quantity We have by us and shall be able to make before his Arrival will all be expended by the time your Reinforcement comes, We think it would be proper for your Honour &ca. to send us likewise as much of that Article as you can.

Roger Drake, *Junr.*
C. Manningham.
Paul Richd. Pearkes.
Willm. Ffrankland.
John Zeph: Holwell.
Willm. Macket.
Willm. Baillie.
Edward Eyre.

Resolution in regard to a further Detachmt. to be sent to Bengal.

The President reports to the Board from the Secret Committee that Salabad Jing having made pressing sollicitations for a Detachment of our Forces to join his Army, the said Committee have had under consideration whether his Request could be complied with or not and in the Course of their Deliberations have given it as their Opinion that four hundred Men Might be spared for that Service including the Train; The Board thereupon taking into Consideration the State of Affairs at Bengal and the pressing Demand made by the President and Council there for Military, are of Opinion that altho Four hundred Men might be spared to join Salabad Jung, yet the same Number cannot be prudently detached for the Service in Bengal because in the first Instance, it might reasonably be supposed that their Junction with Salabad Jung would draw off at least an equal Number of French Troops that Way, or if Occasion should require the Party might be recalled, but in case of sending such a Body of Men to Bengal it might be impossible to have them back here in time of Need nor would the French be under any Necessity on that Account to lessen their Forces on the Coast. The Board are therefore of Opinion that not more than One hundred and Fifty Men can be spared from this Coast (besides those already sent by the Delawar) for the service of Bengal, And it is Agreed to apply to Admiral Watson for the Twenty Gun Ship or Sloop belonging to his Majesty's Squadron to transport that Number of Men with Military Stores at Calcutta. A Draught of a Letter to Admiral Watson for that Purpose is now settled as follows.

Letter to Adml. Watson.

To Charles Watson Esqr. Rear Admiral of the Red
and Commander in Chief of all his Majesty's Ships
and Vessels in India.

Sir

The President and Council of Bengal having in a Letter of the 7th. June advised us that the Nabob of the Parts had made himself Master of the Company's Settlement of Cossimbuzar and that he was then in full March with a considerable Army towards the Town of Calcutta which is the principal Settlement of our Company in Bengal; The Gentlemen there having but a thin Garrison wrote us in very pressing Terms to send them immediate Assistance, We accordingly laid aside our Intentions of dispatching the Delawar to

England and embarked with all the Expedition We were able as many Men as that Ship could receive on board which were about 230. We have great Hopes this Reinforcement would reach them in time to prevent their Nabob's making any further Progress, but as it may not be altogether sufficient to enable the Gentlemen there to oblige him to retire to a proper Distance, and having received fresh Letters requesting that the supplies We send may be as large as possible; We think it incumbent on Us to send an Additional Force; but not having a proper Conveyance We are under the Necessity of troubling You with a Request that You will if possible spare the Twenty Gun Ship or the Sloop belonging to your Squadron to embark about 150 Men with a few Military Stores, a List of which We take the Liberty to trouble you with, and We are further to request that you will direct the Captain of the Ship to give all the Assistance either by Land or on float he may judge himself capable of doing if requested by the President & Council there.

We are
Sir
Your most Obedient humble Servants

FORT ST. GEORGE,
3RD. AUGT. 1756.

GEORGE PIGOT.
STRINGER LAWRENCE.
HENRY POWNEY.
ROBERT ORME.
ALEXANDER WYNCH.
WILLIAM PERCEVAL.
JOHN SMITH.
CHARLES BOURCHIR.

AGREED that the Sea Horse Sloop Captain Oliphant now lying in the Road be freighted on the Honble Company's Account, and dispatched as soon as possible to Bengal with Gun Powder and Ammunition.

The Sea horse sloop to be freighted to carry Gun Powder to Bengal.

GEORGE PIGOT.
STRINGER LAWRENCE.
HENRY POWNEY.
ROBERT ORME.
ALEXR. WYNCH.
WILLM. PERCEVAL.
JOHN SMITH.
CHARLES BOURCHIER.

THE 4TH.

Signed the following General Letters to be sent by the Sea horse Sloop Vizt.

TO THE HONBLE ROGER DRAKE ESQR.
PRESIDT. & GOVR. &CA. COUNCIL AT FORT WILLIAM.

HONBLE SIR & SIRS

This waits on you by the Sea Horse Sloop and is to cover Invoice of one hundred Barrels of Gun Powder and twenty Barrels of Musket Ammunition, the Freight for which you will please to settle with the Owners to whom some consideration should be made for the Loss they may sustain by the Masters not waiting here for other Freight. We have been under the Necessity of making use of this Conveyance as the Bridgwater Man of War which Mr. Watson has been so good to spare us to Embark a second Detachment on is not able to store more in her Powder Room than her usual Compliment.

— *FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1756* —

We had the Honour to write you the 20th. of last Month by the Delawar, and we please ourselves with hopes the Detachment We sent on that Ship reached you in time, and as they were picked Men from our Garrison who as well as their Officers had seen Service, We persuade ourselves they are sufficient to defend you against any attacks than can be made against you by the Natives and that this further Reinforcement by his Majesty's Ship Bridgwater will enable you to oblige the Nabob to retreat if he has not done so already.

Your Demand for Military Stores is in such General Terms and they consist of such a variety of Articles and many of them are so Cumbersome that it would be impossible for us at this time perhaps to supply you with every thing you may be deficient in. For your present Defence every thing that appears to us most necessary has been sent by the Delawar. The Bridgwater shall carry a further supply and for your future security as soon as your Honour &ca. are pleased to send us the Returns of what you have in Store, We shall be able to form a Judgment what is further necessary and you may be assured We will leave ourselves bare to supply you fully. Major Kilpatrick (who commanded the Detachment on the Delawar) has a perfect Knowledge of these affairs & can be very assisting to you in forming Calculations of what is necessary for you at Calcutta as well as what is most wanting to enable you to retake our Honble Employers Settlement of Cossimbuzar which We flatter ourselves You will soon be Masters of again.

As We judge the Bridgewater will sail in three or four days We shall at this time add nothing more than our Wishes for your Safety and future Success in our Honble Master's Affairs.

We are
Honble Sir & Sirs
Your most Obedient humble Servants,

Fort St. George,
4th. Augt. 1756.

George Pigot.
Stringer Lawrence.
Henry Powney.
Robert Orme.
Alexander Wynch.
Willm. Perceval.
John Smith.
Charles Bourchier.

To Mr. John Lewin Smith
Provisional Chief of Vizagapatam.

Sir

You will receive this by the Sea horse Sloop Captain Oliphant who is bound to Bengal with Ammunition for the Service of the Company's Settlement at Calcutta but having received a Letter from Mr. Boddam of the 18th. of last Month which gives me Reason to fear that Settlement may have fallen into the Nabob's hands (tho' I still hope the contrary) I have directed Captain Oliphant to touch at Vizagapatam for Intelligence. You will therefore acquaint him with such as may have come to your Knowledge and in case the Settlement should still be in the Company's Possession, or that you should not know any thing to the contrary, he is then to proceed directly thither, but if any Misfortune should have befallen it he is then to inform himself by the best Means he can, where he may most probably meet the Delawar which was dispatched from hence the 20th. Ulto. with a Detachment for Bengal, and proceed

immediately to join that Ship, You will therefore not detain the Sloop a Moment longer than may be necessary to give the Commander all proper Information.

I am
Sir
Your most Obedient Servant,
George Pigot.

Fort St. George,
4th. Augt. 1756.

To Captain Christopher Oliphant
of the Sloop Sea Horse.

Sir

The Ammunition now laden on our Sloop on the Honble Company's Account is consigned to the President & Council of Calcutta where your speedy Arrival will probably be very acceptable, but as the late Advices from thence bring the disagreeable News of that Settlements being threatened with an Attack by the Nabob of Bengal into whose hands it possibly may have fallen, I must desire you will proceed from hence with all the Expedition you can to Vizagapatam and deliver the accompanying Letter to Mr. John Lewin Smith the Provisional Chief who will give you all the Intelligence that may have come to his Knowledge regarding the State of the Trouble at Calcutta, and if you should be informed that the Settlement or Fort is still in the Company's Possession or hear Nothing to the Contrary, I would have you proceed thither directly, but if you should learn that it has fallen into the Nabob's hands, You will then inform yourself by the best Means You can where you may most probably meet with the Delawar Captain Thomas Winter who was dispatched from hence the 20th. Ulto. for Bengal with a Detachment of Military under the Command of Major James Kilpatrick and proceed immediately to join that Ship which if you should be able to effect You will deliver on board her all the Ammunition now laden on your Sloop and consigned to the President & Council of Bengal or otherwise dispose thereof according to the Directions You shall receive from the said Major James Kilpatrick.

I am
Sir
Your most Obedient Servant
George Pigot.

Fort St. George,
4th. August 1756.

At a Consultation
Present

George Pigot Esqr. Governour President. — Saturday the 14th.

Stringer Lawrence.	Henry Powney.
Robert Orme.	William Perceval.
John Smith.	Charles Bourchier.

A Letter from Rear Admiral Watson dated the 4th. Instant is read as follows being in Answer to the Letter wrote him the 3rd. Instant. — Letter from Admiral Watson.

To George Pigot Esqr. &ca. Council.

Gentlemen

I this Evening have received your Letter of yesterdays Date, acquainting me with the Troubles at Bengal and desiring me to spare the Twenty Gun Ship or Sloop to receive one hundred and fifty Troops and a Quantity of Military Stores and to proceed with them to that Place.

Mr. Pigot had already applied to me for that Purpose in Consequence of which I ordered the Twenty Gun Ship and Sloop to hold themselves in readiness to proceed to Sea at a Moments Warning. I likewise acquainted Mr. Pigot I would write to the Governour of Bengal that the Captain of the Twenty Gun Ship had my orders to remain there so long as he could be of any material Service to them.

Captain Smith will have my Directions to receive the Number of Men you mention and as many of the Military Stores as he can Stow, and will immediately proceed to Bengal as soon as they are all embarked.

I am
GENTLEMEN
Your most Obedt. humble Servant
CHARLES WATSON.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
4TH. AUGT. 1756.

Military for Bengal to be embarked next Tuesday on the Bridgwater.

The President acquaints the Board that the Military order'd from Camp to be sent to Bengal are come in; AGREED that they be embarked on Tuesday next on board his Majesty's Ship Bridgwater.

GEORGE PIGOT.
STRINGER LAWRENCE.
HENRY POWNEY.
ROBERT ORME.
WILLIAM PERCEVAL.
JOHN SMITH.
CHARLES BOURCHIER.

THE 16TH.

In the Evening received by French Pattamars* via Metchlepatam a General Letter from Messrs. Watts & Collet dated at Chandernagore the 2d July 1756.

AT A CONSULTATION
Present

TUESDAY THE 17TH.

GEORGE PIGOT ESQR. GOVERNOR PRESIDENT.

STRINGER LAWRENCE. HENRY POWNEY.
ROBERT ORME. WILLIAM PERCEVAL.
JOHN SMITH. CHARLES BOURCHIER.

The President acquaints the Board that he had summoned them to communicate the Contents of a Letter received last Night from Messrs. Watts and Collet advising of the Loss of Fort William which Letter is now read as follows.

To THE HONBLE GEORGE PIGOT ESQR.
PRESIDENT & GOVERNOUR OF FORT ST. GEORGE
&CA. COUNCIL.

HONBLE SIR & SIRS

It is with the utmost Concern We now inform you that Fort William was taken by the Moors the 20th. Ulto. The Rise of these Troubles are as follows.

The Nabob under various Pretences sent a Guard upon our Factory at Cossimbuzar to stop our Business as is customary in this Country when they have any Demand on the Europeans, and daily encreased the Force till the Factory was surrounded by his whole Army which the most moderate Computation consisted of 10,000 Horse, 20,000 Ragepout Gun Men and a large Train

* Pattamar—Native Craft—*Hobson Jobson.*

— FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1756 —

of Artillery, and then demanded Mr. Watts to go out & see him, the Nabob's Duan who commanded the Van of the Army writing Mr. Watts a Letter that he might go out with great safety that no Harm should happen and that he would introduce him to the Nabob, Upon this We thought proper to send the Surgeon of the Factory to the Duan and he gave him the same Assurances and sent him back with a considerable Person and a Present of Beetle (which is esteemed a Pledge of Faith) to accompany the Chief to the Nabob, accordingly agreeable to the unanimous Opinion of the Gentlemen of the Factory and Officer of the Garrison, the Chief went & was introduced to the Nabob who immediately order'd him into Confinement and insisted on his giving an Obligation that in Fifteen days time the Gentlemen of Calcutta should level what new Works they had raised, deliver up the Nabob's Tenants who had fled for Protection there, and that if it could be proved that We had falsified the Company's Dusticks by giving them to those that had no Right to them, We should pay back what the Government had suffer'd by Loss of Dusticks: The Chief being in their hands was obliged to sign this, they then told him that his signing was of no consequence without the Rest of the Council accordingly upon the Surgeons returning to the Factory and acquainting Messrs. Collet & Batson that it was necessary they should go to the Chief in order to make an End of the Affair, They went and were detained Prisoners nothing more being said about the Obligation the Chief had signed (the Chief solemnly asserts that he told the Surgeon to let Messrs. Collet & Batson know he did not think it adviseable for them to quit the Factory) the next day We were ordered to deliver up our Cannon and Ammunition which We complied with in hopes entirely to pacify the Nabob, the Army then drew off from the Factory. Mr. Batson was sent back to the Factory & Messrs. Watts & Collet kept Prisoners in the Camp which then bent its March towards Calcutta. We have since heard all the Godowns at Cossimbuzar were sealed up with the Nabob's Seal and the Soldiers remaining in the Factory carried Prisoners to Muxadabad.

As the Chiefs going out of the Factory may perhaps appear extraordinary, We think it necessary to give our Reasons for taking such a Step, it has been always customary in Bengal for the Chiefs of the Subordinates to visit the Nabobs of the Province and We had great Reason to believe that on paying this Visit We should be able to accommodate Matters and prevent his March to Calcutta, If we had refused our Factory must inevitably have fallen into their hands with all the Companys Effects outstanding in Bengal Our Garrison being in no Condition to make a Defence against so large a Force, our Factory being surrounded on three sides by Houses which overlooked our Bastions and some not thirty Yards from the Bastion, Most of our Guns were Honeycomb'd & Carriages rotten though We had repeatedly indented to Calcutta for New ones, Our Garrison consisted of about 50 Soldiers most of Which were black Portugueze. We had about 80 Maunds of Powder but few or no Shot or Granades, We might possibly with this Force have held out 3 or 4 days which would not have prevented the Consequences that have since happened and We undoubtedly should have been blamed for having commenced a War with the Government and We are very sensible had the Gentlemen of Calcutta thought proper to treat, Affairs might have been accommodated even when the Nabob was on his March.

We can give no certain Account how Calcutta was taken, We being then Prisoners in the Camp, but We have since heard the Governour Commandant & several other Gentlemen of the Council with Part of the Garrison quitted the Fort and retired on board their Ships which flung the rest into Panick & Confusion, which occasioned the Fort to be surrendered to the Moors. We hear Mr. Holwell was taken Prisoner in the Fort and is in Irons. We have

no certain News of the Fate of the other Subordinates, but it is reported they are plunder'd. Most of the Company's Servants that remained when the Governour &c^{a}. went away were either killed or have since died by ill Usage.

We shall address your Honour &c^{a}. again when We can do it with more Certainty.

We were released about four days agoe and agreeable to our Desire were delivered to the care of the French who has the Nabobs Orders to send us safe to Madras. Enclosed is a Copy of a Letter from the Nabob to the Director of Chandernagore, as also one to the Governour of Fort S^{t}. George. The Civilities that We and all the English have received from this Settlement requires the Greatest Acknowledgment. Lest any false Reports should reach your Honour &c^{a}. We can assure you that to the best of our Knowledge the French have given no Assistance to the Country Government, but have suffered greatly themselves having been obliged to pay 400000 Rup^{s}. and the Dutch as much or more.

We beg the favour of your Honour &c^{a}. to represent to our Honble Masters our distress'd situation by the first Conveyance and We hope from their Candour that the Part We have acted will not be disapproved of, as We are conscious to ourselves that had the Governour & Council made any Proposals to the Government, Affairs might have been accomodated, Fort William subsisted, and their Effects at the Subordinates & the Aurungs safe, but by all Accounts they were as averse to any Terms of Peace as they were incapable of War.

We are with Respect
Honble Sir & Sirs

Chandernagore,
2^{D}. July 1756.

Your most Obed^{t}. Hum̃. Servants

W^{M}. Watts.
M. Collet.

The President also lays before the Board the Translations of the Copies of two Letters, One from the Nabob of Bengal to him, the original whereof is committed to the Care of M^{r}. Watts. The other from the Nabob of Bengal to the French Directore at Chandernagore which are as follow.

Copy of a Perwannah (or Letter) from Nabob Monsoorel Mulock Seera-jel Dowlah Bahauder Hayabet Jung to the Gomastah of the English of the Koatey (or trading house) at Madras.

Directore Pigot of high & great Rank and greatest of the Merchants, May You be Possessor of the Patchas Favour.

It was not my Intention to remove the mercantile Business of Company belonging to you from out of the Subah of Bengal. But Roger Drake your Gomastah was a very wicked and unruly Man, and began to give Protection to Persons (who had accounts with the Patcha) in his Koatey. Notwithstanding all my Admonitions, Yet he did not desist from his shameless Actions why should these People who come to transact the mercantile Affairs of the Company be Doers of such Actions? however that shameless Man has met with the Desert of his Actions and was expelled this Subah. I gave Leave to M^{r}. Watts who is a helpless poor & innocent Man to go to You. As I esteemed You to be a substantial Person belonging to the Company I have wrote these Circumstances of this shameless & wicked Proceedings, Dated the 1st. of Moon Shaval on the 3^{d}. Year of the Mogul's Reign which is the 30th. June 1756.

— *FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1756* —

COPY OF A PERWANNA (OR LETTER) FROM NABOB MANSOOREL MULOCK SERAJEL DOULAH BAHADUR.

Great Merchant & Man of Friendship Monsr. Renaud Directore General of the French Company Betrappy.

I have sent M^{r}. Watts an English Man & Gomasta at Cossimbuzar to you with a Letter to M^{r}. Pigot commanding in the Koatey (or trading house at Madrass) a Copy of which Letter is enclosed. You must therefore send for the said M^{r}. Watt's Family who were committed to the Charge of the Gomasta at Sydabad & send him away with his Family to M^{r}. Pigot at Madrass, see them arrived & send for M^{r}. Watts Receipt with an Answer to my Letter & forward them to me who am Well wisher of the People Dated the 29th. of Moon Ramadan in the 3^{d}. Year of the Mogul's Reign which is the 28th. June 1756.

The great Importance of the Settlement of Calcutta to the Company appears in such a Light to the Board that they are thoroughly satisfied the utmost Efforts should be made to recover it. It is AGREED therefore to consult M^{r}. Watson on this Occasion as it is the Opinion of the Board the Squadron or part, may render great Services at this time, and in Consequence of this Resolution it is AGREED to suspend the Embarkation of the Troops as settled in Consultation the 14th. untill further Measures have been concerted with M^{r}. Watson.

GEORGE PIGOT.
STRINGER LAWRENCE.
HENRY POWNEY.
ROBERT ORME.
WILL^{M}. PERCEVAL.
JOHN SMITH.
CHARLES BOURCHIER.

AT A CONSULTATION

Present

WEDNESDAY THE 18TH.

GEORGE PIGOT ESQ^{R}. GOVERNOUR PRESIDENT.

STRINGER LAWRENCE. HENRY POWNEY.
ROBERT ORME. WILLLIAM PERCEVAL.
JOHN SMITH. CHARLES BOURCHIER.

Charles Watson Esqr. Rear admiral of the Red, and Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Squadron in India, and George Pigot Esqr. Rear Admiral of the White also present at the Request of the Board.

The Letter from Messrs. Watts & Collet read and entered on the Minutes of yesterdays Consultation being again read, The Admirals are made acquainted with the great Importance of the Settlement of Calcutta lately lost and that the Board are of Opinion should it not be recovered it will be of the utmost ill Consequences to the Company's Affairs if not their entire Ruin. That the Board judge the Appearance of the Squadron in the River of Bengal will be a great Inducement to the Nabob to come to Terms and restore the settlement. On the other hand should he refuse the offers that might be made him on this Occasion that the Fifty Gun Ship proceeding up the River might in a very few hours (from the description of the Factory) oblige the Moors to quit that and the Town; M^{r}. Watson hereupon assured the Board that he is

ready & willing at all times to do every thing in his Power for the service of the Company, but considering the State of Affairs in Europe it appeared quite necessary his Squadron should not be divided and yet from the Accounts he had had of Bengal River he saw great Danger in attempting to carry the two, if not the three largest Ships up to Town, that he saw not what Service they could be of unless they proceeded so high, but that if the Board were to give it him as their Opinion that it would be necessary to employ the whole Squadron on this Occasion he would run all Risques to serve the Company. That he desired the Board would further consider of it, and that he would immediately give Orders for getting all the Ships in Readiness whether the whole Squadron might be thought necessary to be employed or not, And then, with Mr. Pocock withdrew.

The Board taking into Consideration what had been urged as above by Mr. Watson, are of Opinion that even the Fifty Gun ship might be sufficient to drive the Moors out of Calcutta, but as the Possession of that Place only, without being in a Condition to carry on a Trade as usual would be of no use to the Company and that the Appearance of the whole Squadron might induce the Nabob to enter into Terms of accomodation, It is the unanimous Opinion of the Board to apply to Admiral Watson for the whole Squadron, to which it is resolved to add all the Land Forces that can be spared. The President on this Occasion offering his Services to accompany the Squadron should they proceed, The Board express the highest sentiments of his Willingness to exert himself in this distinguished Manner, and hope it will appear in the same Light to the Company. The Board are of Opinion that the Presence of the President or that of Colonel Clive will be necessary as well to advise with Mr. Watson as to negotiate with the Nabob for resettling the Factory in a regular Manner, and will in a future Deliberation take into Consideration whom of Mr. Pigot or Mr. Clive, they shall request to undertake this Expedition In the mean time, ORDER'D that Mr Clive do repair to Fort St. George and that the Admiral be addressed to send the whole Squadron in Conformity to the above Resolution. A Draught of a Letter is accordingly now settled as follows.

TO CHARLES WATSON ESQR. REAR ADMIRAL
OF THE RED & COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF HIS MAJESTY'S
SQUADRON IN INDIA.

SIR

You have been informed of the unhappy Calamity which has befallen the Company's Settlements in Bengal, We are of Opinion that nothing will more Contribute to the reestablishing their Affairs in a proper Manner than the Appearance of his Majesty's Squadron there, We do therefore make it our Request that you will give Us this further Proof to the many We have already received of your Willingness to assist them by proceeding with the whole Squadron with all possible Expedition.

We are
SIR
Your most Obedt. humble Servant

FORT ST. GEORGE,
18TH. AUGST. 1756.

GEORGE PIGOT.
STRINGER LAWRENCE
HENRY POWNEY.
ROBERT ORME.
WILLIAM PERCEVAL
JOHN SMITH.
CHAS. BOURCHIER.

— *FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1756* —

In Consequence of the Determination to call up Mr. Clive from St. David the Board are of opinion that in Case his Absence from thence should be of any long Duration, and should there be a French War, Colonel Lawrence be desired to take Charge of that Garrison and to accept the Acknowledgements of the Board for the Great Willingness with which he tendered his Services for the present Expedition to Bengal.

GEORGE PIGOT.
STRINGER LAWRENCE.
HENRY POWNEY.
ROBERT ORME.
WILLIAM PERCEVAL.
JOHN SMITH.
CHAS. BOURCHIER.

AT A CONSULTATION

Present

THURSDAY THE 19TH.

GEORGE PIGOT ESQR. GOVERNOUR PRESIDENT.

STRINGER LAWRENCE. HENRY POWNEY.
ROBERT ORME. WILLIAM PERCEVAL.
JOHN SMITH. CHARLES BOURCHIER.

John Adlercron Esqr. Colonel of his Majesty's 39th. Regiment of Foot and Commander in Chief of the Land Forces in India, also present at the Request of the Board. Coll. Adlercron present.

For Colonel Adlercron's Information the following Letters are again read vizt.

Letter from Messrs. Watts & Collet at Chandernagore dated 2d. July 1756

Letter from the Nabob of Bengal to the President

Letter from —Do.— to the Directore at Chandernagore.

Letter from this Board to Rear Admiral Watson dated Yesterday and the whole circumstances of the Company's Affairs at Bengal and all the Measures that have hitherto been taken being fully laid open to him, The President then laid before the Board the following Letter from Admiral Watson. State of Affairs at Bengal laid open to him & Letters read.

GENTLEMEN

I have received your Letter of the 18th. Instant, and am much concerned to find the Company's Affairs in so bad a situation at Bengal, I shall very readily give them all the Assistance in my Power, and will proceed with the whole Squadron as far as Ballisore Road; where I shall be able to consult the Pilots on the Probability of carrying the Ships up to Calcutta, and if there is a Possibility of my getting there I shall with the utmost cheerfulness put every thing in Execution that can be proposed for their Service. Letter from Admiral Watson.

The time of my Sailing wholly depends on you, as the Ships can't proceed to Sea till their Provisions and Water is compleated, which will take up a considerable time, if some better method is not pursued, in the management of the Boats, than is now followed.

— FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1756 —

As I propose sending a Frigate before me, in order to have the Pilots ready at Ballisore Road at my Arrival, if you have any Troops or Stores you would send by her, I will give the Captain Orders accordingly.

I am

Fort St. George, Gentlemen,

19th. August, 1756. Your most Obedt. humble Servt.

Chas. Watson.

Military to be sent to Bengal considered.

The Board taking into Consideration the Number of Military necessary to be sent on this Expedition, are of Opinion that two hundred Military and Forty of the Train may be spared upon so extraordinary and interesting an Occasion as the present, these being added to the Number of two hundred and Sixty four rank & file of his Majesty's Troops (which Colonel Adlercron informs the Council are now on board the Squadron) will, the Board are of Opinion, form a Body sufficient for the intended Service, especially should they be so fortunate as to join the Party of two hundred Men and upwards sent on the Delawar which however is not depended on, It is therefore Resolved that two hundred Rank & file of the Companys Troops with Forty Men of the Train be draughted accordingly for this Expedition.

Resolution thereon.

Colonel Aldercron then withdrew.

Adml. Watson to determine whether any Military go on the Frigate.

Agreed that it be left entirely to Admiral Watson to determine whether any part of the Detachment intended for Bengal shall be embarked on board the Frigate he purposes sending before the Squadron And that he be desired to permit that Frigate to touch at Vizagapatam as well to gain Intelligence as to land Thirty thousand Rupees and thirty thousand Madrass Pagodas for the use of the Northern Settlements.

to touch at Vizagaptm for Intelligence.

Genl. Letter to be wrote to Bengal.

Agreed that by the said Frigate a General Letter be wrote to the President and Council; or to the President or such of the Council as may be met with acquainting them of the intended Expedition, and the President is desired by the same Conveyance to address the Nabob of Bengal acquainting him that he is informed by his Letter as well as by other Channels of the fatal Resolution he had taken and carried into Execution in respect to the English Settlements in his Subah and that he proposes very shortly either to go down to Bengal himself or to send his Deputy to negotiate with him concerning the Rights of the English Nation.

and one from the President to the Nabob of Bengal.

George Pigot.
Stringer Lawrence.
Henry Powney.
Robert Orme.
Willm. Perceval.
John Smith.
Charles Bourchier.

— FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1756 —

At a Consultation

Present

George Pigot Esq^{R}. Governor President. Friday the 20th.

Stringer Lawrence.	Henry Powney.
Robert Orme.	Willm. Perceval.
John Smith.	Chas. Bourchier.

The President lays before the Board a Letter from Admiral Watson address'd to him dated this day which is read and is as follows. Letter from Admiral Watson to the President.

Sir

In my Letter to you and the Council of yesterdays Date, I acquainted You I would so far comply with the Request You had made me, as to go with the whole Squadron as far as Ballisore Road, and there consult with the Pilots of the Possibility of my getting to Calcutta, You must be assur'd my consent could not arise from any other Motive than the desire I have of doing every thing in my Power for the Interest of the Company, and it's from that Consideration, I beg Leave to offer it as my Opinion you should call the Gentlemen of the Council together again, and reconsider this Matter.

In their debate, it is necessary they should observe and pay some regard to the great Probability of the News of a French War, by the arrival of the next ship from Europe, And the Intelligence of a French Squadron being expected here, which but a little time past was generally believed, and I have heard Nothing since to make it less probable now than it was then. If it should be true, will not this Coast be left entirely defenceless all this Season by the Squadron attempting to go to Calcutta? and what more is to be feared from this Step, and with great Reason to be expected is, that the ships will be so late before they can proceed to Bombay (if at all) that they cannot be on this Coast again next year till the Middle, or perhaps latter End of May, for it must be consider'd that they have now been in India a Considerable Time and want much repair, particularly the Kent.

I would recommend this future Service which may be wanted from the Squadron, to your serious Consideration, and then judge whether or no a Parade only of the Squadron at Calcutta can recompense for any misfortune that may happen to this Coast hereafter for want of the Ships being here in a proper Season, I mention a Parade only because it is allowed by every Body, if Hostilities are to be committed on the Nabob the Fifty and Twenty Gun ship is as much force as is necessary to reduce and destroy every thing in the Nabob's Dominions they can come within Reach of; Where then is the Necessity of sending the whole Squadron and thereby infallibly depriving this Coast of all the Assistance from them in the Early Months of next year, should there be ever so much Occasion.

You may be assured Sir, I should be happy to have the Squadron employed where they could be of the most Service, and I have no other objection to going to Calcutta than this certain Consequence attending it which is, I shall not be able to bring the Squadron here at the time you may want them to assist you in opposing an Enemy against whom it may be more necessary to guard than to pursue the Measure now proposed, as a less Force than requested will certainly answer every Purpose that can be expected from Hostilities.

After all, if it should still be the Opinion of the Council that it is necessary for the whole Squadron to proceed to Calcutta, I'll use my utmost Endeavours to carry them there, but let it be remember'd it is in my Opinion an unnecessary step, and may be attended with the worst of Consequences.

I am with great Esteem
Sir
Your most Obed[t]. humble Serv[t].
Charles Watson.

Fort S[t]. George,
20th. Aug[t]. 1756.

Considera-tion of the letter from Ad[l]. Watson.

The Board at all times pay a great Regard to Admiral Watsons Advice and Opinion, and tho' the subject here commends to their Attention had been thoroughly weighed before they made him their last Request, yet it is now reconsider'd and after being long debated the Board are of Opinion as follows.

The principal Points taken Notice of by Admiral Watson are, The Probability of a War with France; The Intelligence received and not since contradicted of a French Squadron coming out, The Danger in such case of the Squadrons leaving the Coast and by their proceeding to the Bay render their Return hither improbable before the Month of May. The Board admit that on the Intelligence of a French Armament intended for these Parts, and the Probability of a French War they thought it adviseable to draw together all the Forces they could and to take every Measure that Prudence suggest for the security of the Settlements, even more perhaps than might be absolutely necessary, and tho' the Intelligence of a French Armament has not been contradicted, they consider that the Season is now so far advanced that it is scarcely probable the Seige of this Place or S[t]. David would be attempted before the Monsoon. But should it happen otherwise the Board are of Opinion that Fort S[t]. David has a sufficient Garrison, and that the Forces they can draw together exclusive of those intended for the Bengal Expedition will be sufficient to defend this Settlement even should the Enemy's Force be as formidable as is represented. The Squadron's not being able to return here till the Month of May in case of it's proceeding on this Expedition, The Board do also acknowledge to be of great Weight, but on the other hand they consider that if the whole Squadron should proceed to Ballasore Road and the large ships not be able to get over the Braces they will be in as good time to proceed to Bombay from thence as they could be from hence, and it is not improbable but that should they be able to proceed up the River Affairs might be so far advanced by the End of October that the Capital Ships might proceed then to Bombay in which case the Difference between the Time of their Arrival there and what it would probably have been had they left this Coast at the usual time will not exceed three Weeks or a Month. But even should they not be able to return here till May the Board judge that by the time an Enemy could take the Field in the Spring the Works now throwing up on the New Place will be so far advanced as to be very tenable against an European Force. The Board do not mean by this to place such Confidence in their strength as to think lightly in any degree of the Protection of his Majesty's Squadron, but when they reflect on the immense Loss the Company has sustained in Bengal, the Danger of their total Ruin should their Commerce in that Province not be restored, The daring Insult offered to the English Nation in the Nabob's late violent Measures, and the despicable Light they must ever after be viewed in by the Natives should the National Honour not be retrieved. Upon all these Considerations, the Board are of Opinion that the most exemplary Satisfaction should be taken,

—— FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1756 ——

which they judge will more than any thing contribute to restore the Company to their former Rights, and even put their Trade on a better Footing perhaps than it has ever yet been, and tho this might in some Measure be effected by one or two of the ships yet the Presence of the whole even tho' the Capital Ships should be inactive will it is judged with the appearance of his Majesty's Flag strike a much deeper & more lasting Terror. IT IS THEREFORE AGREED again to address the Admiral to proceed with the whole Squadron provided he will suffer the Military now on board the Ships to proceed up the River notwithstanding the Capital Ships should not be able to get up. A Draught of a Letter to Admiral Watson is accordingly now settled and is as follows. Letter to Adml. Watson.

TO CHAS. WATSON ESQR. REAR ADMIRAL OF THE RED AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF HIS MAJESTY'S SQUADRON IN INDIA.

SIR

Our President has laid before us your Letter to him of this date.

Persuaded as We are from Experience that your good will is ever with us in the support of the East India Company's Affairs, We accept the Remonstrances made in that Letter as a farther Proof of this your Disposition.

What We should have done before your Departure We now anticipate in laying before you our full sense of the late Calamity at Bengal, the fatal Consequences it may, We fear will, produce, and the Resolutions to be taken by Us will be nothing more than the Result of these Reflections.

It is necessary to mount a little higher than the present times that you may be entirely Master of this Subject.

An Embassy deputed by the East India Company to Delhi about forty years ago, obtained from the Great Mogul at more than the Expence of £ 100,000 the Rights & Priviledges which their Settlements have hitherto enjoyed in Indostan. They obtained for the Presidency of Bengal infinitely more than the Violence of the Subah of that Province permitted them to possess themselves of, Regardless of the King's Mandate he prevented them from possessing Nine Tenths of the Lands which had been granted.

What remained was sufficient for the Establishment of a flourishing Colony, Calcutta by its Investment has been hitherto notwithstanding all the Interruptions of the Nabobs the most beneficial part of the Company's Estate.

The space of three years together has seldom passed without Demands of Money made by the Nabob upon the English under groundless Pretences. The State of the Company's Investment laying in the reach of the Government and out of the Reach of the Presidency, has generally induced the English to submit to pay some Consideration in Money in order to prevent greater Detriment to the Company's Affairs. The late Nabob, Grandfather to the present, several times obliged the English to these Concessions.

Some such Pretences groundless We believe, the present Nabob made use of, in order to sanctify the violence of his late Proceeding. He tells our President Mr. Pigot in a Letter, that it was not his Intention to extirpate the English from his Subah, Intentions are best seen by Facts, The Wealth of Calcutta was his Aim and to the vast Misfortune of our Nation he has possessed himself of it. We are advised just now by private Letters that he has plundered all the Effects of the Colony to whomsoever belonging.

To this immense Loss & Detriment, has been added Circumstances which will weigh equally in the Opinion of the Nation, Cruelties & Barbarities inflicted on the subjects of Great Britain which have ended in the Death of

many Gentlemen of Consideration there, the Survivors drove to their Vessels, and interdicted by his Ban from receiving any kind of Succour from his Subjects.

We refer to you, Sir, how much the Honour of the Nation is concerned in these most Violent Breaches of Faith and of Humanity, We submit to you, Sir, to determine whether exemplary Reperation is not necessary.

On these Sentiments We made our first Application to you; the taking satisfaction in the most exemplary Manner will in our Opinion be the quickest Means of re-establishing the English in the Province of Bengal and even on better Terms than they have hitherto obtained.

The Appearance of a Flag will add Weight to the Terms that may at last be made: and the greater our Force in Bengal, the more immediately will the Reparation of our Injuries be in our own hands.

On the contrary should nothing of this kind succeed We tremble for the Consequences which will befall the Company.

We are obliged for your Representations of our Situation here. We have seriously Reflected on the Subject, We shall leave ourselves with a Garrison sufficient for our Ground and with the rise of our Fortifications cannot say that We fear even an Enemy powerful as has been represented to us from Europe.

We cannot from the above find any Reasons for altering the Request which We did ourselves the Honour to present to you for sending the whole Squadron to Bengal. We must add that as We shall send only 200 Rank & File of our Troops We depend on your suffering those on board the Squadron to proceed up the River, notwithstanding You should find it impracticable to carry up the largest Ships.

We are
Sir
Your most Obedient humble Servants

FORT ST GEORGE,
20TH. AUGT. 1756.

GEORGE PIGOT.
STRINGER LAWRENCE.
HENRY POWNEY.
ROBERT ORME.
WILLIAM PERCEVAL.
JOHN SMITH.
CHAS. BOURCHIER.

The President lays before the Board a Message he received in writing yesterday from Colonel Adlercron which is read, and is as follows.

> Colonel Adlercron from the constant Behaviour of the Gentlemen in the Administration of the Company's Affairs on the Coast, has had no Reason to expect any extraordinary Degree of Complaisance would be shewn to him, and therefore, if it regarded him only personally, would have been very indifferent about it, but in Consideration of the character which he bears in this part of the World from his Majesty, the Colonel thinks himself indispensably obliged to represent to Mr. Pigot that he looks upon the present Conduct with respect to him as the highest Indignity to the Commission he has the Honour of holding here and that he is convinced it must appear very extraordinary to every unprejudiced Person, that a Matter of so great Moment to the Company as the taking of Calcutta, and which in its

Consequences may probably affect the King's Troops, should not yet be communicated to him by any other channel than that of common Report. He is the more obliged to take Notice of it, as every officer of his Majesty's Troops under his Command expresses the greatest Resentment that so notorious a Slight should be shewn to him, in so much that the Colonel is under the Necessity of making known to his Majesty the first Opportunity of this fresh Insult in addition to the many others he has therefore received.

FORT S^T^. GEORGE, JN^O^. ADLERCRON.
19TH. AUGUST 1756.

SIR

As the above written Message which I sent you this Morning by my Secretary must be inserted in the Journal I am directed by his Majesty to keep, I think in Justice to you, I ought to desire the favor of your Answer thereto.

I am
SIR
Your most Obed^t^. humble Servant
JN^O^. ADLERCRON.

TO GEORGE PIGOT ESQ^R^.

The President acquaints the Board that he did not communicate to Colonel Adlercron inform of the Advices of the Loss of Calcutta immediately on Receipt of them because no Measures could be taken with respect to the Land Forces untill the Operations of the Squadron were adjusted but as soon as he received Admiral Watsons Answer of the 19th. Instant, he waited on Colonel Adlercron himself, acquainted him of every thing that had passed and desired his Presence at the Consultation which was held yesterday.

Tho' the foregoing Message is addressed to the President only, it is agreed to answer it from the Board in the following Manner.

TO JOHN ADLERCRON ESQ^R^. COMMANDER IN
CHIEF OF THE LAND FORCES IN INDIA.

SIR

The President has communicated to the Board a Message he received from You in Writing Yesterday, complaining of Indignities and Insults offer'd to your Commission, and of a great Want of Complaisance in us who are concerned in the administration of the Company's Affairs. This is an accusation of such an extraordinary Nature that the General Terms you have been pleased to represent it in oblige us to call upon you to explain yourself in every particular both under your own hand and such of your officers as think themselves aggrieved by our Conduct.

The particular Instance you mention of an Indignity offer'd to your Commission, the President has convinced us is ill grounded. No steps had been or could be taken with Respect to the Land Forces untill Some Points had been settled with Admiral Watson relating to the Squadron, and the hour the President received M^r^. Watson's Letter acquainting him that the Squadron might proceed to Bengal on the Company's Service he himself waited on

you with that Letter & acquainted you with all the Intelligence he had received even before he had communicated Mr. Watson's Resolution to any one of his Council, any application previous to this would have been premature.

It is surprising to us at a time when more than any, the utmost Unanimity and good Will in every subject of Great Britain is necessary to support the Interests of the East India Company which We will venture to call the Interests of the Nation, We say We are surprised at such a time to see such Altercations set on foot.

We are
SIR
Your most Obedt. humble Servants

FORT ST. GEORGE,
20TH. AUGT. 1756.

GEORGE PIGOT.
STRINGER LAWRENCE.
HENRY POWNEY.
ROBERT ORME.
WILLM. PERCEVAL
JOHN SMITH.
CHAS. BOURCHIER.

Letter from Col. Adlercron read.

Letter from Colonel Adlercron read as follows.

TO GEORGE PIGOT ESQR. PRESIDENT & GOVR.
&CA. COUNCIL OF FORT ST. GEORGE.

GENTLEMEN

As I am well convinced it will not be agreeable to his Majesty, that the Regiment under my command should be so much divided, as it is likely to be by the Expedition now in agitation for Bengal, I think it my duty to lay the same before you, and therefore to desire that as many as possible of his Majesty's Troops may be employed upon this Service; but in case, instead of doing us that Honour, You should prefer making use of the Company's Troops upon this Occasion I must then beg the favour Gentlemen, that you would join me in an application to the Admiral that the Detachment of my Regiment now on board the Squadron may be relieved by an equal number of your own Forces.

I am
GENTLEMEN
Your most Obedt. humble Servant

FORT ST. GEORGE,
20TH. AUGT. 1756.

JNO. ADLERCRON.

Resolution thereon.

As Nothing can be determined in Relation to the Land Forces untill the Operations of the Squadron are settled, It is AGREED to defer untill then the Consideration of the foregoing Letter.

GEORGE PIGOT.
STRINGER LAWRENCE.
HENRY POWNEY.
ROBERT ORME.
WILLM. PERCEVAL.
JOHN SMITH.
CHARLES BOURCHIER.

Received by French Pattamars two General Letters from Messrs. Watts & Collet at Chandernagore One dated the 6th. the other the 7th. July.

—— *FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1756* ——

AT A CONSULTATION

Present

SUNDAY THE 22d

GEORGE PIGOT ESQR. GOVERNOUR PRESIDENT.

STRINGER LAWRENCE.	HENRY POWNEY.
ROBERT ORME.	WILLIAM PERCEVAL.
JOHN SMITH.	CHAS. BOURCHIER.

General Letters read.

Letter from Messrs. Watts & Collet from Chandernagore.

N. 115 and N. 116, General Letters from Messrs. Watts & Collet the first dated at Chandernagore the 6th. the other the 7th. July and enclosing Copies of two Letters from the President Mr. Drake and others of the Council of Bengal dated on board Ship Dodaley off of Fulta all which are read & are as follow.

TO THE HONBLE GEORGE PIGOT ESQR.
&CA. COUNCIL OF FORT ST. GEORGE.

HONBLE SIR & SIRS

Enclosed comes Duplicate of our Letter of the 3d. Instant, since which We are informed that the Dacca Factory was surrounded and the Gentlemen obliged to surrender that the French Chief has received them into their Factory till he has the Nabob's Order concerning them, that Mr. Amyatt has made his Escape from Luckipore with Effects of the Companys to the Amount of about 60,000 Rupees, Mr. Boddam from Ballasore likewise with about 5 or 6000 Rupees.

We have been obliged to borrow Money of the French Company for our Subsistence as We have lost every Thing We had in Bengal Vizt. Mr. Watts 2000 for him & his Family and Mr. Collet 500 Rs. for which We have given Receipts. As these Notes will be tender'd to your Honour &ca. from Pondicherry for payment we beg the favour of Your Honour &ca. to honour them and in case the Company do not think proper to make us any Allowance We shall with Pleasure repay the Sum advanced Enclosed is a List of what Gentlemen are on board of the English Ships in the River. We are with Respect.

CHANDERNAGORE,
6TH. JULY 1756.

HONBLE SIR & SIRS
Your most Obedt. humble Servants
WM. WATTS.
M. COLLET.

TO THE HONBLE GEORGE PIGOT ESQR.
&CA. COUNCIL OF FORT ST. GEORGE.

HONBLE SIR & SIRS

Since our last We have received a Letter from the Gentlemen on board of the Ships at Fulta, Copy of which We enclose as also copy of a Letter they desire to be translated into Persian and sent to the several Great Men about the Nabob for Permission to re-establish the Settlement.

We must beg Leave to observe to your Honour &ca. that We wrote to the Governour & Council of Calcutta when We were at Hughley (which was the first Opportunity We had) that if they would send a Proper Person or empower us, We flatter'd ourselves that We should be able even then to accommodate Matters for a sum of Money. We are not certain, but are informed that that

Letter was received and an Answer wrote importing that after the Affront the Nabob had given of sealing up the Company's Effects and confining their servants at Cossimbuzar they could not think of coming to any Terms of Accommodation. We are informed likewise by Cossenaut one of the Company's Banyans that Ommichund and some of the principal Merchants offer'd to contribute considerably towards making up Affairs. Coja Wazeed the greatest Merchant in Bengal who resides at Hughley and has great Influence with the Nabob his Duan told us that he went four times to Calcutta in Order to persuade the Gentlemen to make up Matters with the Nabob but was threatned to be ill used if he came again on the same Errand.

We shall do all in our Power to get Permission to reestablish the Settlement but are without any hopes of obtaining it during the Life of the present Nabob, We therefore know of no other Method but that of a Military Force which We hope Your Honour &ca. will be able to send sufficient to attack the Nabob even in his Metropolis as We hear a Peace is confirmed with France.

There are 79 of our Serjeants Soldiers & others in the Hospital here who escaped from Calcutta and are provided with Provisions & Cloaths by the French Governour & Council who have been extremely humane to Us all and now maintain by charity near 3000 poor Portugueze Men, Women & Children who were Inhabitants of Calcutta.

We are with Respect
Honble Sir & Sirs
Your most Obedient humble Servants

Chandernagore,
the 7th. July 1756.

Wm. Watts.
M. Collet.

To Coja Wazeed.

Sir

Relying on your Favour & Friendship for the English Nation, We take the Liberty of addressing this Letter to you & entreat the Honour of your aid & Assistance in our present situation We hope by your Means to be informed in what Manner We may address the Nabob for his Permission to reestablish our Settlement at Calcutta.

To whom can We apply in our present Circumstances but to those from whom We have received many Marks of Favour & Protection and on whom We still depend.

Having no Munsee with us We are obliged to address you in English & hope, Sir, you'll for that Reason excuse any defect in our Stile or Omission of the due forms of Respect. What can We say more? but that We hope much from your aid and Favourable Representation of the English to the Nabob. We are with respect

Sir
Your most Obedient humble Servants

Roger Drake, *Junr*.
C. Manningham.
Wm. Frankland.
Wm. Mackett.
P. Amyat.
Thos. Boddam.

— FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1756 —

TO WILL^M. WATTS & MATHEW COLLET ESQ^RS.

GENTLEMEN

We congratulate your safety at Chandernagore in our Situation We are to expect from you who have been so long in the Nabob's Camp the most certain account you are able to transmit Us of the Nabob's Determination respecting the English Company and what Effect you imagine an Application to his principal Ministers & Great Men would have in our Favour, for which Purpose We should be glad you would let us know who would be the properest Persons to address to, We are advised that Monickchund, Roy Doolob, Golaum Hossein Cawn & Coja Wazeed are those who have the greatest Influence; & in consequence of that Information We forward you enclosed Letters for those Officers and desire you will endeavour to have an exact Translate of them made into the Persian Language and get them delivered with the Original. If you think it would be proper to apply to any other Durbar Officers upon this Occasion We request you will point out the Persons or (if you judge it will answer the End) We should be glad you would address them yourselves in behalf of our Honble Employers to interest them in our Favours. In hopes of opening a Correspondence with the Government, We have absolutely forbid any Hostilities being committed on any Moors Ships or Vessels which may arrive in the River or giving any Offence to the Country People round about Us, by which pacific Measures on our Side We hope for a favourable Turn of Affairs.

DATED ON BOARD THE
DODDALEY OFF FULTA,
6TH. JULY 1756.

We are
GENTLEMEN
Your most Obed^t. humble Serv^ts.

ROGER DRAKE, *Junr.*
C. MANNINGHAM.
W^M. FRANKLAND.
W^M. MACKETT.
P. AMYATT.
THO^S. BODDAM.

Letter from Admiral Watson dated the 21st. Instant read as follows. Letter from Ad^l. Watson.

GENTLEMEN

I received your Letter of yesterday's date, late last Evening, and from the Facts therein mentioned, I concurr with you in opinion that the Nabob has been guilty of the most violent Breaches of Faith & Humanity on the subjects of Great Britain, I therefore agree with you that ample satisfaction ought to be demanded for the Insults and Barbarities lately committed on the Gentlemen at Calcutta and am very ready as I acquainted you before to go with the whole Squadron to that Place if there is a Possibility of carrying them there and doing every thing in my Power to reestablish the Settlement and accommodate Matters to the Honour of our Nation, and the Interest of the East India Company. But before I proceeded I thought it was my duty to represent to you the situation you must be in on this Coast in consequence of the Squadron's going to Bengal, however as you are of opinion the being left entirely destitute, in case of a French War, and without Expectation of any Assistance from the Squadron for a considerable Time, is a Circumstance now not to be regarded, but that it should be Entirely given up for the sake of the Squadrons attempting to go to Bengal, I shall immediately proceed to Balasore Road as soon as the ships are compleated with Provisions and Water, and as the Dispatch of this entirely depends on you, I hope you will give Directions for a sufficient Number of Boats to be employed on this service.

I shall give the necessary Orders to receive the Number of Troops you propose sending, but I must beg Leave to observe the Request you have made, in case the large ships cannot proceed up the River, is of such a Nature that I cannot by any Means comply with it, for you must consider how very short of the proper Number of Men the squadron is already by those left sick at St. David, and must also be left here. This Deficiency I am afraid will so far put it out of my Power to part with any of the Troops now on board; that I shall be under a Necessity of applying for a Reinforcement of Men for the Service of the Squadron for you must imagine if the largest of the ships can get no farther than Ballasore Road. For their safety, the Honour of his Majesty's Flag and for the sake of my own Reputation, I can never think of suffering the Men to be sent from them. Is it not very probable, if the French Squadron should arrive here, which you have reason to expect that they having Intelligence where I am gone to, will under the Presumption of the largest ships not being able to get higher than Ballasore Road, come there in Search of Me? How then should I be able to defend his Majesty's Ships without Men? Would they not become an easy Capture to the French, and thereby contribute to heap Ruin on your Affairs, instead of being of any Service?

I beleive when You had this article under your Consideration, You was not acquainted that two hundred Men will be left at the two Hospitals, add to this one hundred & fifty Lascars sent ashore for the Service of the Garrison at Fort St. David, when I left that Place, and the certainty of soon having a Number of Men sick, for Want of Refreshments while in Ballisore Road.

All these considerable Reductions render the Squadron already unable to do the Duty they ought, and what would be expected from them.

In this Situation I leave you to judge whether the Complying with your Request in sending the Troops from the largest of the ships while in Ballasore Road would not expose them too much to have any dependance on them hereafter in case an Enemy should appear.

As I have already assured you my whole Attention is employed to promote the Interest of the Company I need not repeat, it's from that Consideration I think this would be a very imprudent Step, and risking the principal Ships of the Squadron, when there is the greatest Probability of your wanting their real Assistance on another Service as I have mentioned before.

I am

Fort St. George,
21st. August 1756.

Gentlemen
Your most Obedt. & humble Servt.
Chas. Watson.

Consideration of the foregoing Letters defer'd till Mr. Clives Arrival.

Colonel Clive being expectd here in a day or two Agreed to defer the further Consideration of the foregoing Letters untill his Arrival.

Letter from Coll. Adlercron.

Letter from Colonel Adlercron dated the 21st. Instant in Answer to the Letter wrote him the 20th. read & ordered to be Enter'd hereafter.

George Pigot.
Stringer Lawrence.
Henry Powney.
Robert Orme.
Willm. Perceval.
John Smith.
Chas. Bourchier.

— FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1756 —

To George Pigot Esqr. President & Governour
&c^a^. Council of Fort S^t^. George.

Gentlemen

Both myself and every Officer under my Command have more than once thought themselves greatly aggrieved by your Conduct towards them, however to prevent altercations (which at this unhappy Conjuncture are indeed very unseasonable) We think it more adviseable to lay our Grievances before his Majesty, and submit to his Determination whether or no our Complaints are well founded. We have the more Reason for taking such a Step as I have made frequent Representations to the Committee of the Nature of these Grievances, without ever having the good fortune to meet with any Redress.

I cannot help observing, Gentlemen, that you have greatly mistaken the Occasion of the Message in writing I sent to the Governor the 19th. Instant, Had you well considered it you could never have been convinced, that the particular Instance I mentioned of an Indignity offer'd to my Commission, was ill founded. It is Matter of Fact, that the taking of Calcutta, tho' a Matter of great Moment to the Company and such as was likely in its Consequences to affect the Kings Troops was not communicated to me till the third day after the Advice thereof was received, now whether such a Treatment were injurious and an Indignity offer'd to his Majesty thro' me, I leave to the World to judge.

I shall only further add, Gentlemen, that myself and all his Majesty's Troops, will with the utmost Chearfullness exert ourselves in support of the Interests of the East India Company, however ill We may have been treated by their servants, and will forget all our Grievances whether any Occasion offers wherein We can be of Service to You.

I am
Gentlemen
Your most Obed^t^. humble Servt.
John Adlercron.

Fort S^t^. George,
21st. Augt. 1756.

At a Consultation

Present

Tuesday the 24th.

George Pigot Esqr. Governor President.

Robert Clive.	Stringer Lawrence.
Henry Powney.	Robert Orme.
William Perceval.	John Smith.

Charles Bourchier.

Robert Clive Esqr. Deputy Governour of Fort S^t^. David who arrived here this Morning now takes his Seat at the Board. Mr. Clive takes his seat

The Advices from Bengal and the Measures that have been taken relating thereto being fully communicated to Colonel Clive, the Board proceeded to consider and deliberate on the Letter from Admiral Watson read and entered in the Minutes of yesterdays Consultation, and the following in answer thereto is now wrote & signed Viz^t^.

— *FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1756* —

To Charles Watson Esqr. Rear Admiral of the Red & Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Squadron in India.

Sir

We have received Your Letter of the 21st. Instant and observe the Several Reasons you give why you judge it would be improper to send the large ships to Bengal, and as you are pleased to acquaint Us that should you proceed no further than Ballasore you could not possibly land the part of the Regiment on board them, In such case We think, it would be better they should not proceed as it would weaken our Garrison here too much to continue them on board and send a sufficient Force to Bengal, We however think the retaking this so valuable a Settlement of the Company's should not be put to the hazard this Expedition would be subject to if undertaken by one ship only, and are therefore to request that you will permit the Tyger and Salisbury to proceed.

We are
Sir
Your most Obed^t. humble Servants

Fort St. George,
24th. Augt. 1756.

George Pigot.
Robert Clive.
Stringer Lawrence.
Henry Powney.
Robert Orme.
William Perceval.
John Smith.
Charles Bourchier.

The Consideration of other Measures relating to the intended Expedition are deferr'd untill Admiral Watsons Answer is received.

George Pigot.
Robert Clive.
Stringer Lawrence.
Henry Powney.
Robert Orme.
William Perceval.
John Smith.
Charles Bourchier.

Thursday the 26th. at 10 o'clock in the fore-noon.

At a Consultation

Present

George Pigot Esqr. Governour President.

Robert Clive. Stringer Lawrence.
Henry Powney. Robert Orme.
Willm. Perceval. John Smith.
Charles Bourchier.

Letter from Ad^l. Watson

The President lays before the Board a Letter from Admiral Watson, and acquaints them that in Consequence of the last Paragraph he had desired both M^r. Watson & M^r. Pocock to be present this day at Consultation at 11 o'Clock. The Letter from Admiral Watson is now read and is as follows Viz^t.

— *FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1756* —

GENTLEMEN

I received yours of yesterday's Date requesting me to permit the Tyger & Salisbury to proceed to Calcutta.

I have already acquainted You, if you were still of Opinion the whole Squadron should proceed on this Service, I was ready to go with them to Ballasore, and there enquire of the Possibility of carrying them farther But I offered it as my Opinion (which was founded on the Information I had learnt of the strength of the Place) that the Fifty & twenty Gun Ship would be as much Force as there would be Occasion for. If more is thought necessary I will send the Sloop with them, but I can never think of seperating two Ships of Line from only four, till some certain Advices arrive from Europe, And having further considered this Expedition, I am apt to think if it is delayed till the last Week in next month, there will be a much greater Probability of Success attending it than if the Ships were to proceed immediately as they will then escape the rainy Season, which is allowed by every Body to be the most unhealthy Part of the year, and in all Appearance if the Ships were to go now, One third of their Men would fall Sick before there would be an Opportunity to do any service however I take the Liberty to mention, I think Advices should be immediately dispatched to Mr. Drake to acquaint him he will soon receive all the Succour from hence that can be spared.

If from this Consideration of the rainy Season, or any other, that can be thought of, You think it necessary to assemble, and further debate on this Expedition I am ready to wait on you whenever You Please.

I am
GENTLEMEN
Your most Obedient humble Servt.
CHARLES WATSON.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
25TH. AUGUST 1756.

As Admiral Watson does not think it adviseable to part with the Tyger & Salisbury the Board employed the time untill the Admiral's coming in deliberating on the Measures to be now taken but without forming any Resolution. *Letter from Mr. Watson consider'd.*

AT 11 O'CLOCK
Present
ADMIRAL WATSON.
&
ADMIRAL POCOCK.

The Board resumed the Consideration of the Measures to be taken in the present Crisis and having long debated thereon without being able to come to any Determination Admiral Watson again assured the Board that if they desire him he will proceed with the whole Squadron as far as Ballasore Road, and even up the River if the Pilots will take Charge of the large ships, and then leaving the Board to determine what Request to make him on this Occasion withdrew with Admiral Pocock. *Deliberation on Measures.* *Adml. Watson & Adl. Pocock withdraw.*

After a long debate it is unanimously RESOLVED that Admiral Watson be desired to send the Fifty and Twenty Gun Ships down to Bengal with about two hundred and Forty Military with the Intent to retake Calcutta only without attempting any thing more untill joined by further succours, and that all necessary Preparations be made as expeditiously as possible to send all the *Resolved to ask for the 50 & 20 Gun Ships.*

Forces that can be spared from hence with the Remainder of the Squadron, if in the interim the expected Advices from Europe should not make it necessary to alter these Measures. Draught of a Letter to Admiral Watson is accordingly now settled & is as follows.

To CHARLES WATSON ESQR. REAR ADMIRAL OF THE RED AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF HIS MAJESTY'S SQUADRON IN INDIA.

SIR

We have received your Letter of the 26th. and having also had the Honour of your Company at our Council yesterday, We have resolved to request of you at this time the Assistance only of the Fifty & Twenty Gun Ships, We are therefore to beg that You will permit us to embark on them about two hundred and forty Military and that You will be pleased to order them to proceed with all Expedition to Bengal, as We judge the retaking of Calcutta immediately will be of the utmost Consequence to the Company and as you have repeatedly as well in your Letters as Yesterday at the Board offer'd to go down with the whole Squadron to Ballasore Road and even up the River if the Pilots will take Charge of the large ships, We purpose making you our further Request to do so as soon as they can be got ready, if no Advices from Europe in the interim should make such a Measure improper.

We are
SIR
Your most Obedient Servants

GEORGE PIGOT.
ROBERT CLIVE.
STRINGER LAWRENCE.
HENRY POWNEY.
ROBERT ORME.
WILLM. PERCEVAL.
JOHN SMITH.
CHAS. BOURCHIER.

Letter to be wrote to the President & Council of Bengal.

AGREED to write to the President and Council at Bengal or such of them to whose hands the Letter may come that as We intend sending a larger Force, We think it adviseable that nothing should be attempted immediately with the Fifty and Twenty Gun Ships and the Forces sent on them, but the retaking of Calcutta, and that We think it would be adviseable not to conclude any Terms with the Nabob, but if he should be inclined to treat; amuse him untill they receive further Forces or advices from us.

GEORGE PIGOT.
ROBERT CLIVE.
STRINGER LAWRENCE.
HENRY POWNEY.
ROBERT ORME.
WILLIAM PERCEVAL.
JOHN SMITH.
CHARLES BOURCHIER.

Received by Pattamars General Letter from Roger Drake Esqr. & others of the Council at Bengal dated off Fulta the 13th. July and General Letter from Roger Drake Esqr. dated on board the Syren Sloop off Fulta the 14th. July.

FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1756

AT A CONSULTATION

Present

SUNDAY THE 29TH IN THE AFTERNOON

GEORGE PIGOT ESQR. GOVERNOUR PRESIDENT.

ROBERT CLIVE. STRINGER LAWRENCE.
HENRY POWNEY. ROBERT ORME.
WILLM. PERCEVAL. JOHN SMITH.

CHARLES BOURCHIER.

The Board being met according to Adjournment to read the Letters received from Bengal and to consider of Measures, the following Letters are accordingly now read Vizt.

TO THE HONBLE GEORGE PIGOT ESQR.

PRESIDENT & GOVERNOUR &CA. COUNCIL.

HONBLE SIR & SIRS

Our utmost Efforts have been employed to dispatch to you sooner the Intelligence of the Capture of Calcutta by the Moor's acting under orders of Sourajee Dowlat the new Nabob which account We doubt not will have reached you before this can possibly arrive by means of Pattamars from the Shroffs or foreign Nations. A Narrative of this unhappy Event, will be in our Opinion faithfully related to You by Mr. Chas. Manningham which We have not time to Committ at present to Writing. The above Gentleman We depute to your Honour &ca. on the United East India Company's Behalf and require from his Representation that you will support us with the whole Force you can obtain on your Coast Military and Marine together with a sufficient Quantity of Ammunition Cannon and all other Warlike Stores Military and Marine which may enable us to reestablish Ourselves in these Provinces which We esteem of the most essential consequence to the East India Company and Trade of India in General, It is highly proper to represent to your Honour &ca. that the English here were established by Patent from the great Mogul under whose Orders all Subahs should be dependant, But as your Honour &ca. are well acquainted that this Province was overcome by Allyverde Cawn who maintained his Conquest by Force of Arms, so was it posses'd by his Grandson who assumed the Title of Sourajee Dowlat, wherefore further to favour our Cause and just Complaints for Restitution and Right to the Priviledges granted us by the Royal * Phirmaund, We are to request you will without delay set forth to the Grand Mogul the Enormities committed by the present Nabob on a Nation that has always paid due Obedience to the Tenor of the Phirmaund, nor infringed on its Priviledges, requiring and entreating by his authority to re-establish Us in all our Rights, and, that the Loss sustained by the Company and Inhabitants of the Settlement may be made good; We are at present endeavouring to open a Correspondence with the principal Men whom We are informed the Nabob attends to in hopes to bring on a Treaty untill We can obtain Succour and that We may in some Measure be relieved from our present Distress; being in the utmost Want of all Necessaries of Life & Strict Orders issued by the Government not to supply us with any Provisions, The Dutch & French are also prohibited giving us any Assistance, their Situation appears very precarious, and We are told the French have wrote for a large Reinforcement from Pondicherry. Our Determination is to keep the River untill We are informed of your Honour &ca's. Resolutions, and in case We are not able to procure any Favour from the Government or should be persecuted by the Enemy so as to be obliged to stand out to Sea. We shall proceed to Vizagapatam, this We think proper to mention as it may be necessary that the Ships in their Way to the Bay call there for Intelligence, which We shall lodge there

* Grant of Privileges—Love's vestiges, volume 1, p. 267.

if We are able to procure any Conveyances, for the Ingratitude of our immediate Servants has been such that We are drove to the Necessity of doing every individual Office for ourselves, nor have We been able to procure as Pattamar or a Persian Writer and it is with the utmost Difficulty We have hitherto kept together a sufficient Number of Lascars to work our Ships and are daily apprehensive they will quit us on the first Occasion. We have desired the Gentlemen at Vizagapatam to provide and hold in readiness what Provisions of every kind they are able to procure to be put on board the Vessels coming down hither; We request your Honour &c^a^. to represent a full state of all the Occurrences to Rear Admiral Watson the Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Squadron and entreat his Aid and Assistance with the Fleet which We hope may be able to proceed hither.

Monsr. Le Bon (who had Command of one of Our advance Batteries and defended the same very gallantly) accompany's M^r^. Manningham and will in case of Accident happening to M^r^. Manningham deliver you these Advices We esteeming Mr. Le Bon qualified to give you a circumstantial Detail of our Military Proceedings, as also inform You of the various Stores We are in Want of.

As We imagine the News of this Capture will produce very bad Consequences in England to the Honble Company's Affairs if they receive it without being informed at the same time of there being a Prospect of our resettling in Bengal; We are to request Your Honour &c^a^. will alter your Resolution for sending the Delawar to Europe till you know the success of the Forces You may be able to assist us with.

We are
HONBLE SIR & SIRS
Your most Obed^t^. Servants

OFF FULTA,
13TH. JULY 1756.

ROGER DRAKE, *Junr.*
C. MANNINGHAM.
W^M^. FRANKLAND.
W. MACKET.
P. AMYATT.
THOMAS BODDAM.

TO THE HONBLE GEORGE PIGOT ESQ^R^.
PRESIDENT & GOV^R^. &C^A^. COUNCIL.

HONBLE SIR & SIRS

You must naturally conclude the Mind cannot recover itself in our present Situation to transmitt You such a Narration of the Event passed by the Capture of Calcutta by the Moors, As the Circumstances thereof require to be penn'd with Impartiallity which shall be my strictest Endeavours to set forth, when I am eased of the Anxiety, my Station has drawn on me. I am therefore now to entreat your Conclusions on any Conduct may be suspended untill the Motives Actions and Reasons for such our Conduct are impartially set forth.

I am with great Respect
HONBLE SIR & SIRS
Your most Obedient Servant

SLOOP SYREN OFF FULTA,
14TH. JULY 1756.

ROGER DRAKE, *Junr.*

—— *FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1756* ——

The first Point debated is whether the survivors of the late President & Council for the Company's affairs in Bengal, notwithstanding the Loss of all the Company's Settlements which were under their Management, do still remain invested with the same Powers or Rights as they had before to direct in all Matters relating to the Company which may be transacted within the former Limits of that Presidency.

After a long Debate, the Question being put, is carried in the affirmative by a Majority.

The President on the first News of the Capture of Calcutta, and Colonel Clive on his Arrival here from St. David, having offer'd their Services to proceed at the head of the intended Expedition to Bengal, in case it should be thought that either the one or the other undertaking such an Expedition would be most for the Company's Advantage. It is now debated whether it is eligible to request either, and which of the President or Colonel Clive to undertake the Expedition.

When it was first thought that such a Measure might be proper it was not known whether those of the President & Council of Calcutta who had escaped with Life were in any Situation to take upon them & discharge the Powers of a President & Council and in case they were not, it would have been necessary that whoever went at the head of the Expedition on behalf of the Company should have been invested with full and general powers not only to retake their lost Settlements but to negociate & conclude Treaties with the Country Powers for re-establishing the Companys Affairs, and it was thought that none could be so properly entrusted with such unlimitted Powers as one of those Gentlemen whom the Company have placed the one in the 1st. the other in the 2d. Station on this Coast but it being above resolved that the Survivors of the President and Council of Bengal do still retain their Powers as such and consequently that whatever Expedition do proceed thither must fall under their Direction, The Board are now of Opinion (in Consequence of that Resolution) that it is neither necessary nor proper for either the President or Colonel Clive to proceed.

Resolved that the Thanks of the Board be returned to the President and Colonel Clive for their intended Services on this Occasion.

The next Point consider'd is, whether upon a Re-examination of all Circumstances and Advices to this time, The Resolution already taken "to send "down 240 Men on the fifty and Twenty Gun Ships to retake Calcutta only "without proceeding any further untill other Forces be sent down, And that "as large a Force as can be spared from the Coast be sent down with the "Remainder of the squadron as soon as the necessary Preparations can be "made, if in the interim the expected advices from Europe should not make "it necessary to alter those Measures." Do still subsist Or whether any and what other Measures are proper to be now taken.

Resolved That Admiral Watson be desired to suspend any orders he may have given for the Departure of the Fifty & twenty Gun Ships, and that the Embarkation of the Men intended to be sent on them be also countermanded. That in case the expected ships from England should bring the News of a War with France, Admiral Watson be then desired to proceed down to Bengal with the whole Squadron at once, That Colonel Adlercron be desired to proceed on the Squadron with his whole Regiment & Train of Artillery And That all Preparations of Stores & Necessaries be made with all possible Expedition in the same Manner they would be were it peremptorily resolved such an Expedition should proceed at all Events.

The Reasons for the foregoing Resolution are Vizt.

— *FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1756* —

FOR SUSPENDING THE ACTUAL DEPARTURE OF THE EXPEDITION UNTILL THE ARRIVAL OF ADVICES FROM EUROPE.

1ST. The Gentlemen of the Council of Bengal in their foregoing Letter desire the whole Force that can be obtained both Military and Marine with Stores Cannon &ca. may be sent them, such a Force as they seem to expect and think necessary (which is more fully explained in some private Letters) would if sent away now leave this Coast exposed to great hazard should a War be declared with France.

2D. There is all the Reason in the World to imagine that before every Preparation can be made for the whole Expedition to proceed at once, Advices may be received from Europe to clear up the Doubts in regard to Peace or War.

3D. The delaying for a Month or Two the retaking of Calcutta can be of no other Consequence than that it will be impossible to advise the Company by the September Ship from hence of the success of the Expedition and tho' it is to be wished this could be done yet as the attempting it at this time might expose their Estate to greater Detriment, it is postponed.

FOR SENDING THE KING'S TROOPS.

1ST. Almost every thing in this Expedition depends on a large and well served Field Train of Artillery.

2D. There are not a sufficient Number of good proper Field Pieces in the Company's Stores.

3D. Colonel Adlercron in his Letter to the Board of the 20th. Instant intimates that his Majesty is unwilling his Forces should be seperated.

4. The Board are therefore under the Necessity of taking the Resolution they have or of wanting the main Assistance, A Good Field Train.

A Letter to Admiral Watson and one to Colonel Adlercron are accordingly now wrote & signed and are entered hereafter.

GEORGE PIGOT.
ROBERT CLIVE.
STRINGER LAWRENCE.
HENRY POWNEY.
ROBERT ORME.
WILLM. PERCEVAL.
JOHN SMITH.
CHAS. BOURCHIER.

TO CHARLES WATSON ESQR. REAR ADMIRAL OF THE RED AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF HIS MAJESTY'S SQUADRON IN INDIA.

SIR

Since We did ourselves the Honour to address you the 27th. Instant, We have received Advices from the President & Council of Bengal requesting as large a Force as We can possibly spare, and as it would be imprudent to part with such a Number of Men as they think necessary to obtain such Redress as the Injuries received require, while We remain uncertain whether War has been declared or Peace concluded with the French in Europe, We think it would be better to defer sending the Fifty & Twenty Gun Ships agreeable to our last Request, but that if the expected Coast & Bay Ships should not bring us the News of War every End would be better answered by the whole Squadron's proceeding at once, which in that Case We shall then request of you.

— FORT ST. GEORGE, AUGUST 1756 —

We purpose also to desire Colonel Adlercron will go on the Expedition with his whole Regiment & Train and for that Purpose We are making all necessary Preparations. We are therefore now to request You will suspend the Orders You may have given relating to the Departure of the Fifty and Twenty Gun Ships untill We receive Advices from Europe And that You will permit Us to send on board such of the ships of the Squadron as you may appoint the Military Stores for the Expedition as We can get them ready.

We are
Sir
Your most Obed^t. humble Servants

Fort St. George,
the 30th. Augt. 1756.

George Pigot.
Robert Clive.
Stringer Lawrence.
Henry Powney.
Robert Orme.
Willm. Perceval.
John Smith.
Charles Bourchier

To John Adlercron Esqr. Commander in Chief
of the Land Forces in India.

Sir

We deferr'd answering your Letter of the 2d. Instant untill We received such Advices from Bengal as might lead Us to some determinate Resolution in regard to the Number of Men necessary for the intended Expedition. We have accordingly received a Letter from the President & Council, by which & all other Circumstances that have as yet come to our Knowledge, We judge that it would not be prudent to spare from hence such a Body of Military as would be necessary to do Justice to the Nation and Company for the Injuries received, while We remain in a state of uncertainty whether War or Peace with France have taken Place in Europe but in case our expected Ships should bring us News of the latter, We think it would be then adviseable to make a vigorous Effort to recover the Company's Settlements & oblige the Nabob to make ample Retribution for the Losses and Injuries sustained; and in that Case, We purpose to request that you will undertake this Expedition with your whole Regiment and Train, which joined to the Detachment sent down on the Delawar under the Command of Major Kilpatrick will We judge form a Body sufficient to answer the intended Purposes. If these Measures meet with your Approbation We beg you will immediately give Orders for preparing every thing necessary for such an Expedition that if on the Arrival of Advices from England it should be proper every thing may proceed accordingly.

We are
Sir
Your most Obedient humble Servants

Fort St. George,
30th. August 1756.

George Pigot.
Robert Clive.
Stringer Lawrence.
Henry Powney.
Rorert Orme.
Willm. Perceval.
John Smith.
Charles Bourchier.

— FORT ST. GEORGE, SEPTEMBER 1756 —

FRIDAY the 3d.

AT A CONSULTATION

Present

GEORGE PIGOT ESQR. GOVERNOR PRESIDENT

ROBERT CLIVE.	,, ,,
HENRY POWNEY.	ROBERT ORME.
WILLM. PERCEVAL.	JOHN SMITH.

CHARLES BOURCHIER.

STRINGER LAWRENCE ESQR. *absent, being indisposed.*

Two Letters from Adml. Watson read.

The two following Letters from Admiral Watson are now read, the First being in answer to a Letter wrote before the Resolution taken at the last Consultation.

GENTLEMEN

Salisbury 100
Bridgwater 140
240

Last Night I received your Letter of the 27th. Inst. requesting me to assist you now, only with the Fifty & Twenty Gun Ships, and that I would permit two hundred & forty Troops to be embarked on board them; and give orders for their proceeding to Bengal with the utmost Expedition. The Ships are ready and their Captains have my orders to sail the moment the troops are embarked which are disposed of as in the Margin.

By the latter part of your Letter, I imagine as soon as you are acquainted the rest of the Squadron are ready for the Sea, You then purpose to make me a further Request of proceeding to Calcutta with them. If that is your only Reason for delaying your Application, I have the Pleasure to tell you all the ships are now ready to proceed to Sea at a Moments warning and I shall take care to keep them so.

I am

FORT ST. GEORGE, Gentlemen

30TH. AUGUST 1756. Your most Obedient humble Servant

CHAS. WATSON.

GENTLEMEN

I have received your Letter of Yesterday Date & agreeable to your desire shall countermand the orders I have given to the Captains of the Fifty & twenty Guns Ships.

The Military Stores you request to be taken on board the Squadron, must not be embarked in the large Ships, they drawing so much water already as to make their Passage up the River Bengal extremely hazardous and perhaps impossible but I have no Objection to the twenty Gun Ship receiving as much as she can with Conveniency, and have given her Captain Orders accordingly, at the same time it must not be forgot that the Marlborough (one of your own ships) is here and will be able to take in a considerable Quantity of all kinds of Stores.

I am

FORT ST. GEORGE, GENTLEMEN

31ST. AUGUST 1756. Your most Obedient humble Servant

CHAS. WATSON.

—— *FORT ST. GEORGE, SEPTEMBER 1756* ——

Agreed that as many of the Military Stores intended for the Expedition as the Marlbrõ can take in be put on board that Ship.

The President acquaints this Board that Colonel Adlercron has informed him he does not think the Letter wrote him the 30th. Ulto. sufficiently explains the intended Expedition to Bengal, but that if the King's Regiment should proceed, a Plan of Operations should be given him to be laid before a Council of War Whereupon it is Agreed to write him the following Letter.

Colonel Adlercron desires a Plan of operations.

Letter wrote him.

To John Adlercron Esqr. Commander in Chief of the Land Forces in India.

Sir

The President having acquainted us that you think our last Address requesting the Regiment to go to Bengal was not sufficiently explicit and that you desired a Plan of Operations to be laid before you, We now give you our Sentiments on every thing relating to that subject.

It is necessary to premise that whatever may be laid before you by us as a Plan of Operations is subject to the Approbation of the Company's Representatives in Bengal to whose Recommendations on all Occasions We request the same Attention from You as You would have had to any Representations made by us to you while on the Coast.

We have already acquainted you that We purpose to request You will (in case the expected Advices from Europe should not induce Us to alter these Measures) proceed to Bengal with the whole Regiment and all the Train of Artillery, to which will be added as great a Number of Seapoys as can be embarked on board his Majesty's Squadron.

The above forces are intended to retake Calcutta and dispossess the Moors of Hughley those two Places lying on the Banks of the River will be rendered an easy Capture with the Assistance of the Squadron, after which it is to be hoped that the Nabob may come to such terms of accommodation as the Gentlemen in the Management of the Company's Affairs may think proper to accept.

But on the contrary should the Nabob not come to Terms, it is more than probable he will move down from Muxadavad with his Army, which will make it necessary that as soon as possible the Nature of the Ground about Hughly and Calcutta be well reconnoitred. and the Spot chosen where it shall be judged best to engage the Nabob, who flushed with his late Success may venture a Battle.

Should this Battle (As We hope it will) be attended with a Defeat of the Nabob's Troops & he notwithstanding remain unwilling to make terms, If from the Experience which will then be obtained of his Force, and from the Information which may be gained of the Country it is thought possible to proceed further; We are of Opinion that this Expedition should not finish untill he either comes to Terms, or that his Capital of Muxadavad be destroyed.

At the same time We must desire that You will assure Us that on any future Representation from us You will be ready to return to Us on the Coast should the situation of our Affairs make such a Request necessary.

Our Sense of the immense Loss which the Company's Estate has sustained at Calcutta, obliges us to stipulate that as soon as that Place is retaken the whole Property of it be delivered untouched to the Company's Representatives for the Company's Benefit.

And as the Company will be at a vast Expence by this Expedition, It is necessary that one half of all the other Captures which may be made be appropriated to the Company's Benefit; We say the Company's Benefit alone, for altho the Loss of private Persons by this Calamity may be reckoned at £ 400,000 Yet nothing of this one half is intended for their Benefit, and they must remain in their present Situation till they can find Relief from their Superiours.

As the utmost Dispatch is necessary, considering the Lateness of the Season, We request the Stores may be immediately embarked and as a literary Correspondence on the Details of this Expedition will protect the Dispatch, We shall be glad to confer with you whenever you have any thing necessary to communicate.

We are
Sir
Your most Obedient humble Servants

FORT ST. GEORGE,
3D. SEPTR. 1756.

GEORGE PIGOT.
ROBERT CLIVE.

HENRY POWNEY.
ROBERT ORME.

JOHN SMITH.

Coll. Clive & Messrs. Orme & Smith a Committee for making Preparations for the Management of the Boats.

That all the Stores and Necessaries for the intended Expedition may be prepared without Loss of Time, Colonel Robert Clive & Robert Orme & John Smith Esqrs. are appointed a Committee to manage and give Directions concerning the same, and all orders signed by any two of them is to be of as much Force as if signed by the whole. The said Committee are also empowered during this Expedition to take upon them the entire Management of the Boats and to give such Directions relating thereto as they may think for the Benefit of the Service & the Publick.

GEORGE PIGOT.
ROBERT CLIVE.

HENRY POWNEY.
ROBERT ORME.
WILLM. PERCEVAL,
JOHN SMITH.
CHARLES BOURCHIER

MONDAY the 6th.

AT A CONSULTATION

Present

GEORGE PIGOT ESQR. GOVERNOUR PRESIDENT.

ROBERT CLIVE.	STRINGER LAWRENCE.
HENRY POWNEY.	ROBERT ORME.
WILLM. PERCEVAL.	JOHN SMITH.

CHARLES BOURCHIER.

Mr. Lee Beaume arrives from Bengal.

Letter from Mr. Manningham.

This morning arrived here Monsrr. Le Beaume a French Gentleman deputed with Mr. Manningham by Mr. Drake &ca. Council of Bengal at Fulta to represent to us the situation of affairs and advise the necessary steps to be taken, and brought with him a General Letter from Mr. Charles Manningham which is as follows.

— FORT ST. GEORGE, SEPTEMBER 1756 —

To the Honble George Pigot Esqr.

President & Govr. &ca. Council of Fort St. George.

Honble Sir & Sirs

I had the Honour to forward from Vizagapatam and Bandarmalanka two Copies of the dispatches from Bengal advising your Honour &ca. of the Governor & Council having deputed me with Monsr. Le Beaume to entreat the Aid & Succours of your Presidency in order to effect the Reestablishment of our Settlement in Calcutta, I had flatter'd myself with hopes of a speedy Journey, but the violent Rains in this part of the Country together with a Failure in our Palankeen Bearers from the Difficulty and Fatigue in travelling thro' a Country overflowed impedes our Passage to such a Degree. We greatly fear our Arrival at Madrass will be very late; Considering therefore the pressing Occassion of our being deputed to your Honour &ca. and the Necessity of the Bengal Affairs which require our greatest Diligence being exerted, We have been induced (in earnest hopes of obtaining the desired End) to pursue the Remainder of the Journey seperately, Your Honour &ca. will therefore receive this by Mr. Le Beaume a Gentleman fully capable of acquainting you with the Nature of the Supplies needful and operations necessary to be performed.

I have furnished Mr. Lee Beaume with Bearers and some Seapoys well acquainted with the Road and have great hopes by the favour of Mr. Moracin to obtain the Assistance of Horses at the different Settlements under his Command in this Province which may enable Mr. Lee Beaume to proceed with greater Expedition and prove a Resource in case the Palankeen Boys are incapable of pursuing the Journey.

I have the Honour to subscribe myself with great Respect

Masulipatam Pettah, Honble Sir & Sirs

28th. Augt. 1756. Your most Obedt. & most humble Servt.

C. Manningham.

The President acquaints the Board that by the Conversation he has had with Mr. Le Beaume he does not find he has any thing to offer that can give any new Lights into the Bengal Affairs.

Monsr. Le Beaume being a Frenchman the Board do not think it adviseable to give him any Insight into their Affairs or Intentions and as he has nothing more to offer than has already been communicated, It is Agreed to proceed no further untill Mr. Manningham's Arrival.

Agreed to wait Mr. Manningham's Arrival.

Monr. Le Beaume having been sent up by the Gentlemen at Bengal on the Company's Account and being in Want of all Manner of Necessaries having lost every thing at Calcutta Agreed that One hundred Pagodas be given him to provide Apparel &ca.

100 Pags. to be given Mr. Le Beaume.

George Pigot.
Robert Clive.
Stringer Lawrence.
Henry Powney.
Robert Orme.
Willm. Perceval.
John Smith.
Chas. Bourchier.

Received by French Pattamars from Massulipatam General Letter from Messrs. Watts & Collet at Chandernagore dated 18th. July and one from Messrs. Richd. Beecher &ca. Council at Dacca dated 13th. July. 7

— *FORT ST. GEORGE, SEPTEMBER 1756* —

WEDNESDAY 8th.

AT A CONSULTATION

Present

GEORGE PIGOT ESQR. GOVR. PRESIDENT.
ROBERT CLIVE.
HENRY POWNEY. ROBERT ORME.
WILLM. PERCEVAL. JOHN SMITH.
CHARLES BOURCHIER.

STRINGER LAWRENCE ESQR. *absent, indisposed.*

General Letters read Vizt.

Letters read from Messrs. Watts & Collet at Chandernagore & Mr. Beecher &c Council at Dacca.

N 131 From Messrs. Watts & Collet at Chandernagore with Copies of Letters between them & the President and Council of Bengal at Fulta & N 132 from Mr. Richd. Beecher &ca. Council at Dacca which are as follows.

TO THE HONBLE GEORGE PIGOT ESQR.
&CA. COUNCIL OF FORT ST. GEORGE.

HONBLE SIR & SIRS

Enclosed is a Packet for the Honble the Court of Directors which We have sent under a flying Seal for your Perusal and beg you will close and forward it by the most expeditious Conveyance.

We likewise send enclosed Duplicates of our Letters of the 6th. & 7th Instant to your Honour &ca. & are with Respect

CHANDERNAGORE,
18TH. JULY 1756.

HONBLE SIR & SIRS
Your most Obedient humble Servants
WILLM. WATTS.
M. COLLET.

TO THE HONBLE ROGER DRAKE ESQR.
CHARS. MANNINGHAM.
WM. FRANKLAND.
WILLM. MACKETT.
PETER AMYATT.
THOMAS BODDAM.

HONBLE SIR & SIRS

We have received your favour of the 6th. Instt. from on board the Doddaley off Fulta and are obliged to you for your Congratulations for our Safety. As We were Prisoners all the time of our Stay in the Camp it was little We could learn of the Nabobs Intentions concerning the English, only We heard from all Quarters that he was greatly irritated against your Honour &ca. particularly the Governour, against whom since the taking of the Place his Expressions have been very harsh and he has threatned both French & Dutch with Extirpation if they assist you with any Provisions, Therefore we are without any hopes that an Application to the Great Men will have any Effect at present. tho' had your Honour &ca. thought proper to treat before the Nabob reach'd Calcutta We are pretty certain a Sum of Money would have made all easy, prevented the Loss of the Settlement, and the Ruin of many thousands and We

wrote to your Honour &c^a^. to that Purpose, when We were off Houghley the only Opportunity We had while in the Camp & are informed the Letter came to hand, and a Proof that the Nabobs intent was to accomodate Matters, was that he touched none of the Company's Effects at Cassimbuzar except the Warlike Stores. Should the Nabob think fit to permit the English to return and resettle; We are afraid it would be not only with the Loss of all their Priviledges but on such shameful Terms that Englishmen We hope will never consent to, and We likewise think that after your Honour and the Majority of You had quitted the Fort William which still held out, Your Power as a Governour & Council from that Moment ceased, and We are of Opinion that you have no authority to indemnify us for acting by your Orders in case Your future Measures should not be approved of by our Honble Masters for the above Reasons We have declined delivering the Letters you sent us.

We hope you will on serious Consideration excuse us for being so cautious in an Affair of such Consequence.

We are with Respect

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most Obedient humble Servants

W^M^. Watts.

M Collet.

Chandernagore,
8TH. July 1756.

To Will^M^. Watts & Mathew Collet Esq^RS^.

Gentlemen

Your Letter of the 8th. Instant came to Hand this Morning and We now protest in Behalf of our Honble Employers against you William Watts & Mathew Collet Esq^rs^. for declining to obtain Translation and Delivery of the Letters enclosed under your Cover to Monick Chund, Roy Doolob, Golam Hussein Cawn and Coja Wazeed for all Damages and Wrongs which may ensue by the Deprivation of our Priviledges as contained in the Royal Phirmaund and do now positively direct you to follow the Instructions We gave you in our Letter of the 6th. Instant; having been advised to take that Step and esteeming it ourselves as advantagious & for the Interest of the Honble Company.

We are

Gentlemen

Your most Obed^t^. humble Servants

Roger Drake, *Junr*.
C. Manningham.
W^M^. Frankland.
Will^M^. Mackett.
P. Amyatt.
Thomas Boddam.

Off Fulta,
13TH. July 1756.

To the Honble Roger Drake Esq^R^.

Charles Manningham
W^M^. Frankland
Will^M^. Macket.
Peter Amyatt
Thomas Boddam
} Esq^RS^.

Honble Sir & Sirs

We have received your Letter or Protest dated 13th. July 1756 and are surprised you should protest against us for all Damages and Wrongs which

may ensue by the Deprivation of our Priviledges contained in the Royal Phirmaund when We think We can with more Propriety say that the Majority of you Gentlemen deprived our Honble Masters of their Priviledges as contained in the Royal Phirmaund when you incensed the Nabob to come against Calcutta and then deserted the Place and fled on board your Ships, which in all Probability and by all accounts was the Occasion of the Loss of the Place which might have been defended if you had staid, and by which step We are of Opinion you abdicated your Several Stations and are now no longer to be deemed Servants of the Company, but setting the above aside if We thought it had been for our Honble Masters Interest, We should not have hesitated a Moment getting the Letters translated and delivered; but if you at this time look on yourselves as a Governour & Council You must of Course allow Us our Stations in consequence of which We are persuaded We have a Right to dissent and make our Representations against any of your Measures which We think contrary to the Interest of our Employers as an application at present We are of Opinion is and that it would be more adviseable to wait to see what Steps the Governour & Council of Madrass may be able to take to reestablish the Company's Affairs and credit in Bengal, We having advised them of the taking of Calcutta the 3d. Instant by express Cossids, therefore We think an Application will be more efficacious and made with a better Grace when any force arrives from thence than it can at present, whereas should the Nabob now permit you to return into a ruined and defenceless Town it may be with an Intent to replunder the Place and secure your Persons, for We are of Opinion the Nabob is not to be trusted after Kings have gone the Length they have, and as a farther Reason to imagine that your Return may be attended with a Risque, is, the harsh & inveterate Manner in which the Nabob has expressed himself against Mr. Drake.

We are credibly informed that when You wrote us you made Application to those who had more Interest and Power to give Weight to Your Proposals than We who by great Intercession had but just obtained our Liberty. On our coming to the Knowledge of this, our intermedling We thought might have been rather hurtful than any ways of Service, however if after the Reasons We have given, You are still of Opinion that the Letters you sent us ought to be translated and delivered, We shall agreeable to your Desire get them done and send them to the respective Persons directed except Golam Hossein Cawn who is turned out of the Province, We have no Power or Interest of our own to make Applications, if We had We should certainly have before made use of it for the service of our Honble Employers.

We are with Respect
Honble Sir & Sirs
Your most Obedient humble Servants
Wm. Watts.
M. Collet.

Chandernagore,
14th. July 1756.

To the Honble George Pigot Esqr.
President & Governour &ca. Council
of Fort St. George.

Honble Sir & Sirs

This is designed to inform you of a most melancholy and surprising Revolution in the Honble Company's Settlements here in Bengal having been

—— *FORT ST. GEORGE, SEPTEMBER 1756* ——

all taken by the Nabob Seerajah Dowlat as We have not received the least Advice from any of the Gentlemen of Calcutta of a later Date than the 9th. of June, We are obliged to depend on the French for a particular Account of the taking of Fort William, We now enclose your Honour &ca. the account received by Monsr. Court in the French Chief here from their Secretary at Chandanagore. We see no Reason to doubt the Authenticity of it more especially as every material circumstance is confirmed by the Moors who have from the Beginning assured Us that the cause of the Nabobs anger against the English proceeded from the Governour & Council having given Protection to one Kissendoss who had been the Naib of this City, he retired to Calcutta in March last with great Riches, part of which are said to belong to the Widow of Nowagee's Mawmud Khawn who died in November last and whose Riches Seer Rajah Dowlat claimed on his coming to the Subahship of Bengal when the Nabob sent a Perwannah to demand him, Mr. Drake tore the Perwanna and threw it into the Face of his Messenger. This Insult provoked Seerajah Dowlat to such a Degree that they say he took an Oath to drive the English out of Bengal which he very soon put into Execution, as you'll observe Cossimbuzar was delivered without firing a Gun and Fort Willm. only resisted him three days. We take the Liberty to enclose your Honour &ca. Copies of our Consultations of the 27th. and 28th. Ulto. when We were obliged to surrender our Factory and ourselves Prisoners to Seeraja Dowlat from whom We are in hopes soon to obtain our Liberty as he has already released Messrs. Watts & Collet &ca. If we are so happy as to get our Liberty our present Design is to proceed to Madrass where We shall depend on your Honour &ca. Council's Protection and kind assistance having lost every thing We had in the World except a few Cloaths. We would have sent you Copies of our Consultations and Letters from the Beginning of the Dispute, but as this goes by Pattamar it would make too large a Packet. We design by a French Ship bound to Europe which is to leave Chandernagore next Month to address ourselves to the Honble Court of Directors and Give them the best account we are able of the miserable State of their Affairs in Bengal. As we flatter Ourselves your Honour &ca. Council will not think us any way to blame in delivering up our Factory after the surrender of Fort William, We are to request your kind Representation of our Case should you have an Opportunity of writing the Court of Directors before We have the Pleasure to see you, as by all Accounts the Riches Mr. Drake &ca. have carried off with them are immense. We hope our Honble Employers will be in some Measure indemnified for the great Loss they must have suffered by the taking their Settlements in Bengal.

N.B. The Letters herein mentioned are entered in the Proceedings of the Committee the 9th Instant.

We are with great Respect

Honble Sir & Sirs

Your most Obedient humble Servants

Richd. Beecher.

Luke Scrafton.

Thom: Hyndman.

Samuel Waller.

Dacca,

July 13th. 1756.

Colonel Adlercron not having yet returned any answer to the Letter wrote him the 3d. Instant containing the intended Plan of Operations it is agreed to write him the following Letter which is accordingly now signed.

Letter to Colonel Adlercron.

— FORT ST. GEORGE, SEPTEMBER 1756 —

To John Adlercron Esqr. Commander in Chief
of the Land Forces in India.

Sir

The Advance of the Season obliges us to remind You of the Letter We wrote you under the 3^{d}. Instant and to request the Favour of an immediate Answer Viz^{t}.

We are
Sir
Your most Obedient humble Servants,

Fort S^{t}. George.
8th. Septr. 1756.

George Pigot.
Robert Clive.
——,,——
Henry Powney.
Robert Orme.
Willm. Perceval.
John Smith.
Charles Bourchier.

Ye 9th. Received the following Letter from Colonel Adlercron in Answer to one wrote him yesterday.

To George Pigot Esqr. President & Governour
&c^{a}. Council of Fort S^{t}. George.

Gentlemen

I am directed by his Majesty to undertake no Service with the Troops, but with the Advice and Approbation of my Council of War, the which I cannot now assemble by Reason of the Indisposition of my Lieutenant Colonel and the Absence of my Major, and therefore cannot immediately give you a positive Answer. As soon as Major Forde returns, whom by the last Letters from him, I have reason to expect in a few days I shall forthwith call a Council and in the mean time as I make no Doubt of their ready Concurrence in an Undertaking so essential towards retrieving the Affairs of the Company at Bengal, the necessary Preparations may be made for our Embarkation. I do not apprehend so short a Delay can be of any great Moment, as you seem resolved by the Letters with which you favoured me, both of the 30th. Ult^{o}. & the 3^{d}. Instant, that We should wait the Advices from Europe before We proceed on the intended Expedition.

I am
Gentlemen
Your most Obedient humble Servant

Fort S^{t}. George,
9th. Septr. 1756.

John Adlercron.

The 16th. Wrote the following Letter to Admiral Watson.

To Charles Watson Esqr.
Rear Admiral of the Red and Commander in Chief
of his Majesty's Squadron in India.

Sir

As it will give great Satisfaction to the Gentlemen at Bengal to hear that all the Preparations in our Power to re-establish them in Calcutta are now in pretty good Readiness and as it will be necessary the Pilot Sloops should be

in waiting that the ships may meet with no Delay on their Arrival in Ballasore Road, We are to request the favour of you to let the King fisher Sloop proceed thither and to call at Vizagaptm in her way where if she should not meet with Mr. Drake or some of the Gentlemen belonging to Bengal She may doubtless have Intelligence from the Gentlemen at that Settlement of the situation of affairs in Bengal. We are at the same time to beg that you will permit the Sloop to take what Musket Ammunition she can on board together with some small Cordage and a Hawser or two for the use of the Pilot Sloops.

We are
Sir
Your most Obedient humble Servts.

Fort St. George,
the 16th. Septem. 1756.

George Pigot.
Robert Clive.

Henry Powney.
Robert Orme.

John Smith.

Received the following Letter from Admiral Watson. the 17th.

To the President & Council of Fort St. George.

Gentlemen

Last Night, I received your favour of Yesterdays Date, I shall give the Captain of the King's fisher Sloop Orders to put in Execution what you have requested, and as soon as the Stores are on board you propose sending, She will sail immediately.

I am
Gentlemen
Your most Obedient humble Servant
Chas. Watson.

Fort St. George,
17th. Septr. 1756.

At a Consultation

Present

Tuesday the 21st.

George Pigot Esqr. Governor President.
Robert Clive. Stringer Lawrence.
Henry Powney. Robert Orme.
William Perceval. John Smith.
Charles Bourchier.

Letter from Colonel Adlercron dated the 20th. Instant with the Minutes of a Council of War held the same day read as follows.

— *FORT ST. GEORGE, SEPTEMBER 1756* —

To George Pigot Esq[r]. President
& Governour &c[a]. Council of Fort S[t]. George.

Gentlemen

For an Answer to your two Favours of the 30th. Inst. and the 3[d]. Instant I refer you to the Determination of my Council of War a Copy of which I enclose you herewith.

I am
Gentlemen
Your most Obedient humble Servant
John Adlercron.

S[t]. Thomas's Mount,
20th. Sept[r]. 1756.

At a Council of War held S[t]. Thomas's Mount near Fort S[t]. George the 20th day of September 1756.

Present

Colonel John Adlercron Commander in Chief
Lieut[t]. Colonel Samuel Bagshaw
Lieut[t]. Colonel Stringer Lawrence
Lieut[t]. Colonel Robert Clive
Major Francis Forde
Capt[n]. William Hyslop Commandant of the Detachment of the Royal Artillery.

Two Letters, the one dated the 30th. August the other the 3[d]. Sept[r]. 1756 from the President & Gentlemen of the General Council to Colonel Adlercron were read, as were also the Instructions which the Colonel received from his Majesty.

The Colonel then referr'd to the Council, whether consistent with those Instructions he can undertake to transport his Majesty's Troops under his Command from the Coast of Choromandel to any other part of India, and whether in the present distressed Situation of Affairs at Bengal he ought to go thither.

The Council are of Opinion that the Colonel may and that in Consequence of the Application made to him by this Presidency he ought so to do.

The Colonel then submitted to the Consideration of the Council the three following Requests made to him by the General Council in their Letter of the 3[d]. September.

1st. That he will assure them that on any future Representations from them he will be ready to return on the Coast should the situation of their Affairs make such a Request necessary.

2[d]. That as soon as Calcutta is retaken the whole property of it be delivered untouched to the Company's Representatives for the Company's Benefit.

3. That one half of all the other Captures which may be made be appropriated for the Company's Benefit.

In regard to the first Request the Council are of Opinion, that (as the Presidency at Bengal are acknowledged by the Gentlemen here to be independent of them and as this Presidency have particularly recommended to the

Colonel, to have the same Attention to the Recommendations of the Company's Representatives at Bengal as he would have to any Representations made to him here) the Colonel cannot take upon him to give any such Assurance, and that the two Presidencies must determine that Point between themselves.

With Respect to the two other Requests The Council are of Opinion that no answer can be given but in Concurrence with the Fleet, as they will probably be concerned in some if not all, of the intended Operations.

JOHN ADLERCRON.
SAMUEL BAGSHAW.
STRINGER LAWRENCE.
ROBERT CLIVE.
FRANCIS FORDE.
WILLM. HISLOP.

A TRUE COPY
JNO. CARNAC,
Secry.

The Board having had under Consideration the intended Expedition to Bengal and the Advices lately received from Europe and thereupon the Question being put. **Debate on Bengal Affairs.**

Whether upon the News received from Europe it is proper to undertake the Expedition to Bengal.

It is unanimously the Opinion of the Board that the Expedition be undertaken as the approach of the ensuing Monsoon will oblige the Squadron to leave the Coast whether they go to Bengal or no, and the Rains of the same Monsoon will prevent any Operations in the Field untill the Month of January by which time it is hoped that the desired success will be obtained at Bengal. **Expedition to be undertaken.**

It was then taken into Consideration what Resolution would be necessary in case during the Expedition to Bengal, News of a War with France should arrive and the Coast become again the Seat of War. If at that Time the success that We may have had at Bengal, should not have proved sufficient to reduce the Nabob to a Compliance with such Terms as will be necessary for the Security and proper Reestablishment of the Company's Settlements in his Province. **Further Consideration thereon.**

In such case the Board are of Opinion that it would be imprudent to risk the certain Possession of the Company's Establishments on this Coast for the Chance of Advantages which if not obtained by that Time, will be attended with great Doubt of Success in Bengal, where the Company's Loss cannot be greater than it is at present, AND it is therefore determined that if the Situation of Affairs in future should require the recalling of the Troops We may now send, that the Troops shall be so recalled and if the Fort of Calcutta when retaken shall be deemed with a proper Garrison tenable, that Garrison and a Guard ship be left there after the recalling the Troops.

It was taken into Consideration by the Board how far it is consistent with the Respect due from one Presidency to another to keep a Body of Troops sent to Bengal under our own Directions instead of putting them under that of the Presidency of Bengal as the Companys Establishment of the respective Presidencies makes them independent of each other.

The Board are of Opinion that too great a Respect cannot be paid to every Establishment made by our Honble Masters, but in the present Circumstances, if ever it appears to them that the great Law of Necessity must overrule all others and as the Necessity of keeping what the Company have is evidently and

infinitely the Superiour Consideration the Board are unanimously of Opinion that the Troops now to be sent to Bengal be kept under their own Power, And as this is thought by the Board a Justification sufficient for their Conduct in the present Measures, they decline corroborating it with the Company's Declaration at the Loss of Madrass when they declared that none of the Gentlemen of this Presidency remained in their Service after the Loss of the Place. This Consideration as Equals only to the Gentlemen of Bengal the Board do not pretend to determine on.

The above Reasons make it appear conclusive to the Board that the present Expedition be put under the Command of an Officer in the Service of the Company and this is thought to be made more materially necessary as thereby the Steps which in case of the expected Success may be thought proper to be taken for the Benefit of the Company's Interest will be indisputably placed in the Power of their Servants who will be subject to our Orders.

Another Consideration that evinces the Necessity of putting the Expedition under the Command of one of the Company's Officers is, that in case the Nabob should not by Treaty make ample Reparation for the immense Damages the Company have sustained by his Violences, It is the Intention of the Board to reimburse the Company as far as possible by Reprizals, But as the Board are uncertain whither the Laws direct any and what Distribution of Things acquired by Arms, The Duty they owe the Company demands that a Matter of such Importance be not left in Doubt and liable to Contest when they may have it in their Power to secure the Property of such Acquisitions to the Company by employing their own Officers & Troops.

It is therefore thought from the foregoing Reasons absolutely necessary to employ the Companys Officers and Troops.

The Number of Troops necessary to be sent being now taken under Consideration.

Agreed that Six hundred Rank & File be sent and one hundred of the Train.

And as Colonel Clive has before offer'd his Services he is now desired on many Considerations to accept the Command which he very readily does.

Agreed that Mr. Smith (one of the Members of this Board) and Mr. John Walsh be joined with Colonel Clive as Deputies from this Board for conducting the Expedition, And that Mr. Maunsell accompany them to assist under their Directions.

Mr. Smith being present accepts the Charge with alacrity.

The Board then having taken under Consideration the Instructions and Powers necessary to be given to Messrs. Clive, Smith & Walsh, After much Debate in which the retaining the Troops of the Expedition under our own Command was the Basis of the Arguments, It is Agreed that the Powers and Instructions to be given be as follows.

First That the Gentlemen at Calcutta be desired by us to form a Plan of a Treaty which the Deputies be directed to abide by the Tenour of, and make the Basis of their Correspondence and Transactions with the Nabob.

Secondly, That Colonel Clive be directed to proceed to all such Hostilities as he thinks will most likely bring the Nabob to those terms untill he has had the success to do so, or untill he finds it utterly impracticable, or untill he is recalled by us.

— *FORT ST. GEORGE, SEPTEMBER 1756* —

Thirdly That the Deputies be desired to receive and attend to the Advice of the Gentlemen at Bengal, to weigh the same maturely and if they have the Power so to do, but on assigning Reasons to us, to be transmitted to the Company.

Fourthly That the Deputies be directed to re-establish the Gentlemen of Bengal in Calcutta as soon as the Successes shall render it proper and that they do when the Place is in a sufficient State of security put those Gentlemen in Possession of all such Part of the Companys Effects as shall remain with them and be of no further use to them. And that in case the Nabob should agree to a reasonable Treaty with the English that they do put all the Possessions acquired by that Treaty with their Management.

This being agreed upon as the Basis of the Instructions and Powers to be given to the Deputies,

Agreed to write to Colonel Adlercron that We return him Thanks for his Readiness to move with his Regiment to Bengal, but as the Power of recalling him at an Emergency seems to be attended with an Uncertainty of which our own Situation will not admitt of the least, And as We should run the Risk of incurring the severest Displeasure of our Masters should We put the Property of the Acquisitions that may be made in Bengal into any Manner of Doubt or Contest when We can keep it in our own Power to reimburse the Losses they have sustained, with such acquisitions, by employing their own officers and Troops We do therefore purpose sending a Body of the Company's own Troops to Bengal. But at the same time that it will gives [*sic*] us a particular satisfaction if he will let any part of his Majesty's Regiment be joined to them provided they are commanded by an Officer who by his Rank can serve under the Command of Lieut^t^. Col^l^. Clive and that We request he will let his Majesty's Artillery with the Officers and Train thereunto belonging proceed down on the Service of this Expedition as by the Nature of the Nabob of Bengal's Forces, We think that the Success of the Expedition will greatly depend on the Service of the Field Pieces acquainting him at the same time that We have Eight Six Pounders now in Garrison, and expect several more by the first ship from Bombay to replace his Majesty's Train.

Agreed to write to the Gentlemen at Fort S^t^. David to send up Five Company's of the Seapoys there who are to march overland under the Command of Kirjah Jing and that they also draught from their Garrison Seventy of the Military and thirty of the Train and send them hither by Sea Conveyance with Captain Campbell & Callender of the Military and Lieut^t^. Brooke of the Train. To write to St. David for some Seapoys Military & Train.

George Pigot.
Robert Clive.
Stringer Lawrence.
Henry Powney.
Robert Orme.
William Perceval.
John Smith.
Charles Bourchier.

Sent the following Letter to Colonel Adlercron.

— *FORT ST. GEORGE, SEPTEMBER 1756* —

To John Adlercron Esq^{R}. Commander in Chief of the Land Forces in India.

Sir

We have received the favour of your Letter dated the 20th. Instant enclosing Copy of the Deliberations of the Council of War of the same day to which you have been pleased to refer us.

We have a very sincere sense of your Readiness to assist the Company's Affairs expressed by your Consent to let the Regiment proceed to Bengal.

But as the Intention of warring with the Nabob of Bengal is by no means the only object of our Considerations in sending our Troops there, so these other Considerations have determined us to think that there is now an absolute Necessity of putting all the Troops which We may send under an Officer in the Service of the Company, who We know will implicitly obey the Orders he may receive from us.

The first Consideration that has lead us to this Determination, is, that the Situation of our Affairs, and the future circumstances with which they are threatned, make it absolutely necessary that whatever Troops may now be sent do remain under our own Command, so as that We may be certain of their returning to us at the very first Warning, without attention to any Representations by whomsoever made. The Company's Letters by the Ships just arrived convince us of the Necessity of this Resolution; Now, Sir, to You We can only make Requests, Our own Officer We know We can certainly Command. In times of such critical Importance We beg You will permit us with all Deference, to determine to be at an absolute Certainty on the Power of recalling the Troops We may send.

Letter to Col. Adlercron.

The second Consideration that evinces to us the Necessity of putting this Expedition under the Command of one of our own Officers is that our Intentions are in case the Nabob will not by Treaty make ample Reparation for the immense Damages the Company have sustained by his violences We say it is our Intention then to reimburse the Company as well as We can by whatever Reprisals We shall be able to make. We can in this Consideration likewise only make Requests to you but as We do not pretend to be competent Judges of the Laws in such Cases, We may venture to say that We believe there are no regular ones, We shall run the Risk of incurring the severest Displeasure of our Masters, should We, when We can keep it in our own Power to reimburse the Losses they have sustained with the acquisitions, made by the Troops whom their Money is to maintain, Should We, We say, put the Property of these acquisitions into any Manner of Doubt or Contest.

Permit us, Sir, at the same time to acquaint You, that it will give us a Particular Satisfaction if you shall think proper to let any Part of his Majesty's Regiment be joined to our Troops on this Expedition provided they are commanded by an Officer who by his Rank can serve under the Command of Lieut^{t}. Colonel Clive whom We have appointed to the Command of this Expedition.

We are necessitated in behalf of the Welfare of this Expedition, & of the East India Company's Affairs to request of you to permit his Majesty's Train of Artillery with Captain Hyslop's command, to proceed with Colonel Clive, as the Success of this Expedition will in the greatest Measure depend on the service of the Artillery of which our Own Stores is not sufficient by the Disappointment of those intended for us by the Dodington and the whole of a large Train of Artillery sent to Bombay and detained hitherto by M^{r}. Bourchier.

— *FORT ST. GEORGE, SEPTEMBER 1756* —

We have the Honour to acquaint you that We have in the Garrison, Eight 6 Pounders and expect several more from M^{r}. Bourchier by the first Conveyance which will be ready to replace those We now request of you which are already embarked on the Marlbro'.

Permit us to request as the lateness of the Season now makes every hour of Consequence to be favoured with an immediate Answer to this Address.

We are
Sir
Your most Obedient humble Servants

Fort S^{t}. George,
22^{d}. Septr. 1756.

George Pigot.
Robert Clive.
Stringer Lawrence.
Henry Powney.
Robert Orme.
William Perceval.
John Smith.
Charles Bourchier.

At a Consultation

Wednes-day the 22^{d}.

Present

George Pigot Esqr. Governor President.

Robert Clive. Stringer Lawrence.
Henry Powney. Robert Orme.
William Perceval. John Smith.
Charles Bourchier.

The President acquaints the Board that the Select Committee have received a Letter from the Honble Court of Directors by the Chesterfield and Walpole dated the 13th. Febry last, of which the following is the 3^{d}. Paragraph Viz^{t}.

"In the present dangerous situation of Affairs We have thought it "highly necessary to appoint a Select Committee at Fort William with Simi-"lar Powers to those you and the Select Committee at Bombay are invested "with, to transact Affairs and take such Measures as shall best conduce to the "Protection & Preservation of the Company's Estate Rights & Priviledges. "The said Committee is Composed of Roger Drake Esqr. &c^{a}. with whom "therefore as well as with the Select Committee at Bombay You are to Cor-"respond and act in Concert for the general & particular Protection of the "Company's Trade, Possessions & Rights wherever & whenever they may be "in Danger.

The Board being of Opinion that the Transactions for re-establishing the Company in their Rights and Priviledges at Bengal do properly fall under the Direction of the Secret Committee by Virtue of the foregoing Paragraph; It is therefore now referr'd to the said Committee to do there in as they shall think proper, and that they may be fully informed of the Steps that have already been taken.

— *FORT ST. GEORGE, SEPTEMBER 1756* —

ORDER'D that a Copy of the Letters received and Sent, and of all the Resolutions of Council any ways relative thereto be delivered to the said Committee.

GEORGE PIGOT.
ROBERT CLIVE.
STRINGER LAWRENCE.
HENRY POWNEY.
ROBERT ORME.
WILLM. PERCEVAL.
JOHN SMITH.
CHARLES BOURCHIER.

EXTRACTED FROM THE MINUTES OF CONSULTATION.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
22D. SEPTEMBER 1756.

JOS: DU PRE',
Secry

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